Wednesday
11th August, 1948

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

VOLUME VI, 1948

(9th August to 31st August, 1948)

THIRD SESSION
of the
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
1948

धर्मचक्र-प्रवर्तनाय

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CORRIGENDA

In the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Debates (Part I—Questions and Answers), Autumn Session, 1948:—

In Volume VI—

No. 3, dated the 11th August, 1948—

Page 10, in heading to Question No. 7, *for* "PEHABILITATION" *read* "REHABILITATION".

Page 13, *transfer* line 9 between lines 5 and 6.

पृष्ठ १६, पंक्ति ११, "मैनों" के स्थान पर "मेवों" पढ़ें।

पंक्ति २१, "वाक्य के स्थान पर "वाक़या" पढ़ें।

अन्तिम पंक्ति, "कि" के पश्चात् "कई" पढ़ें।

Page 58, lines 2 and 3 *for* the words "FROM WAR SERVICE, PROVINCIAL SERVICE, ETC." *read* "SERVICE FROM CERTAIN SERVICES AND PROFESSIONS".

Page 66, *insert* the following in the beginning of the page,—

"*Moghalsarai.*—1. Shayam Bahadur, 2. Jagat Narayan Singh, 3. Ballabha Das Agarwal, 4. Rai Saheb H. P. Verma, 5. M. L. Surendra Prasad Singh, 6. Iftikar Ahmed Mohamed Sultan Ansari, 7. Tek Narayan Lall, 8. Bird and Co., 9. Bery Bros. Contract was given to Ballabhadas Agarwal."

No. 1, dated the 9th August, 1948—

Page 145, last line, *insert* "marketing" in the beginning of the line.

Page 157, line 19, *for* the first word *read* "fees".

No. 4, dated the 12th August, 1948—

Page 176, line 28, *between* "this" and "of" *insert* "time".

Page 196, line 8, *for* "status" *read* "statue".

Page 202, line 5, *for* "RECONSTITUOTION" *read* "RECONSTRUCTION".

No. 5, dated the 13th August, 1948—

Page 227, in the heading to Question No. 178, *for* "ORGANISATION" *read* "RE-ORGANISATION".

No. 7, dated the 17th August, 1948—

Page 299, in heading to Question No. 256, *for* "FRANCE" *read* "FRENCH".

Page 311, in line 10 from bottom, *delete* "have"; in line 9 from bottom, *for* "lent" *read* "but".

Page 312, line 7, *for* "on" *read* "in" and *delete* word "Government".

Page 325, line 17, *for* "294" *read* "270".

No. 8, dated the 18th August, 1948—

Page 339, *transfer* line 16 from bottom *between* lines 14 and 15 from bottom.

صفحہ ۳۶۱ - نیچے سے سطر ۹ - "کی" کے بجائے "کو" پڑھیں -

No. 9, dated the 20th August, 1948—

Page 371, line 24 from bottom, *for* "†Includes" *read* "††Includes" in statement appended to Question No. 351, in item (a), part (2), column 5, *for* "Rs. †1,01,400" *read* "†† Rs. 1,01,400".

Page 395, line 25 from bottom, *read* "applications were rejected?".

Page 398, in heading to Question No. 376, *transfer* "*per capita*" between the words "INCOME" and "IN INDIA".

No. 10, dated the 23rd August, 1948—

Page 443, item 8, against "Total" *for* "3,61,31" *read* "2,69,31".

Page 446, line 11 from bottom, *for* "recoganisation" *read* "re-organisation".

Page 449, line 5 from bottom, *for* "Nok" *read* "Now".

Page 450, *insert* a "†" mark in the beginning of last line and *insert* the following foot-note: "† Not printed in the day's debate. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House. —*Ed. of Debates*."

Page 451, under "*Equipments and their approximate Prices*" in Column 3, *omit* the words "Floor Space required."

Page 452, under "*Estimate of Photo Process Section*" in Column 4, *for* "£300979-0-0" *read* "£979-0-0".

صفحہ ۴۶۸ - سطر ۷ - "بلے" کے بجائے "ھے" پڑھیں -

No. 13, dated the 26th August, 1948 —

Page 480, in column 4, *insert* "prices" *between* "Pork" and "after" in last line *for* "rices" *read* "Prices".

Page 489, *against* item 7(iii), in column 3, *insert* the figure "3,01,250".

Page 494, last line, *between* "in" and "Germany" *omit* "it".

पृष्ठ ५०३, पंक्ति १, "तमास" के स्थान पर "तमाम" पढ़ें।

No. 12, dated the 25th August, 1948 —

Page 520, line 6, *for* "there" *read* "these".

Page 528, *for* the existing line 5, *read* "installed at the Bela Road Power House in the year 1947. Three of them".

Page 534, *for* line 21 from bottom, *read* "**478. *Shri H. V. Kamath** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be".

Page 537, *before* "WITHDRAWN", *insert* the figure "**483 ***".

No. 11, dated the 24th August, 1948—

صفحہ ۵۵۲ - آخری سطر - "نہیں" کے بعد "رکھا گیا تھا" پڑھیں -

Page 554, *omit* line 7.

Page 576, line 3, *for* "fact, Sir, that the Maharaja of Baroda conferred" *read* "fact that the Privy Council of Baroda served an"; line 20 from bottom, *for* "Is it a fact that the Privy Council of Baroda served an" *read* "Is it a fact, Sir, that the Maharaja of Baroda conferred".

Page 580, in heading to Question No. 520, *for* "ports" *read* "Posts".

No. 14, dated the 28th August, 1948—

Page 601, line 18, *for* "wate" *read* "waste".

No. 15, dated the 30th August, 1948—

Page 628, line 26, *for* "ooms" *read* "Looms".

Page 648, in heading to Question No. 608, *for* "OCUREMENT" *read* "PROCUREMENT".

No. 16, dated the 31st August, 1948—

Page 697, line 16, *for* "**665**" *read* "**666**".

Page 705, in the top-most line, *insert* "FOR" *between* "TEST" and "RECRUITMENT"; in line 5 from bottom, *for* "200" *read* "290".

Page 706, in the top-most line, *between* "also" and "filled" *insert* "be".

In Volume VII—

No. 1, dated the 1st September, 1948—

Page 714, *for* "lthing" *read* "lighting".

Page 716, line 10, *for* "It is" *read* "Is it".

Page 726, line 2, *insert* "there" *between* "hours" and "have".

पृष्ठ ७३६, पंक्ति ८ "मिलता" के स्थान पर "भिलसा" पढ़ें।

Page 742, last line of statement, *for* "are" *read* "area".

Page 761, in the heading to Question No. 8, *for* "STATWITH" *read* "STATIONS WITH".

No. 2, dated the 2nd September, 1948—

Page 794, line 13 from bottom, *for* "manufacturers" *read* "manufactories".

No. 3, dated the 3rd September, 1948—

Page 876, line 18, *for* "scripture" *read* "sculpture".

Page 879, in top-most line, *omit* "Participation of".

Page 884, in Chapter I of the Notification in Sub-Clause (ii) of Clause 2, *between* "District court" and "the court of" *insert* "means".

No. 4, dated the 4th September, 1948—

Page 919, in last column *of statement*, *for* "14, 47, 49" *read* "14, 47, 496".

Page 924, line 28, *for* "**367**" *read* "**867**".

Page 926, line 14, *against* "Trucks" *insert* "7556".

Page 949, line 22 from bottom, *for* "Agri" *read* "Agriculture be pleased to state".

CORRIGENDA

to

The Index to the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Debates, Part 1, Volumes VI and VII, 1948 *(9th August to 7th September, 1948)*.

Page 16, under "BRUSSELS—", in line 2, *for* "91-92" *read* "191-92".

Page 19, *after* the last line *insert* new line "Strategic roads in Assam. 254".

Page 46, last line, *insert* "Question *re*" in the beginning.

Page 47, under "HOUSE(S)—", in line 7, *for* "owing" *read* "owning".

Page 51, under "INTER-TERRITORIAL ORGANISATION—", in line one, *for* "39" *read* "391".

Page 53, line 30, *for* "MA-E-HIND—" *read* "JAMIAT-UL-ULEMA-E-HIND—".

Page 62, under "MACHINERY (IES)—", in line 3, *for* "71" *read* "718".

Page 69, line 9, *for* "37-0" *read* "379-80" and in line 17, *for* "89" *read* "896".

Page 71, under "NOTICE(S)—", in line one, *for* "52" *read* "252".

Page 73, line 4, in the beginning, *for* "States" *read* "Status".

Page 80, under "PROVINCE(S)—", in line 12, *for* "65" *read* "655".

Page 90, under "RAO, SHRI KALLUR SUBBA—", in first line, *for* "Declarion" *read* "Declaration".

Page 95, *insert* "23-24" at the end of last line.

Page 98, under "ROBBERY(IES)—", in line 3, *for* "murbers" *read* "murders".

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DOMINION LEGISLATURE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

The Speaker

The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar.

The Deputy Speaker

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, M.C.A.

Panel of Chairmen

Mr. Hossain Imam, M. C. A.
Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, M. C. A.
Shri K. Santhanam, M. C. A.
Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, M. C. A.

Secretary

Mr. M. N. Kaul, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary

Mr. A. J. M. Atkinson.
Mr. N. C. Nandi.
Mr. C. V. Narayana Rao.

Committee on Petitions

Mr. Hossain Imam, M. C. A.
Shri K. Santhanam, M. C. A.
Mr. R. K. Sidhva, M. C. A.
Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan, M. C. A.
Shri B. Das, M. C. A.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru—Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai J. Patel—Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and the States.

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad—Minister for Education.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai—Minister for Railways and Transport.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh—Minister for Defence.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram—Minister for Labour.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai—Minister for Communications.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur—Minister for Health.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar—Minister for Law.

The Honourable Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty—Minister for Finance.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee—Minister for Industry and Supply.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil—Minister for Works, Mines and Power.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy—Minister for Commerce.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar—Minister without Portfolio.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram—Minister for Food and Agriculture.

MINISTER NOT IN THE CABINET

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena—Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Wednesday ,11th August, 1948

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SMUGGLING OF CLOTH INTO PAKISTAN

80. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total quantity of cloth seized during smuggling from India into Pakistan after decontrol?

(b) What effective steps have Government taken to stop this smuggling?

(c) What has become of the cloth seized during smuggling and what is the value of the seized cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (c). It is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the quantity of cloth which has actually been smuggled out of India to Pakistan. The estimated value of cloth seized while being smuggled across the border of Western Pakistan is Rs. 1,87,000. Such cloth is kept in the custody of Customs authorities pending adjudication of the cases. No information is available in regard to cloth seized during smuggling across the Eastern border.

(b) To prevent the smuggling, barriers have been put up on the main Land Customs routes and preventive staff is operating in areas where smuggling is reported to be taking place. Regular patrols are being organised in the areas between Land Customs stations. Other measures taken to check smuggling are reduction in the quantity of cloth which railway passengers are permitted to carry as part of their personal luggage from 30 lbs. to 10 lbs. in the case of movement within the Indian Union, and from 18 lbs. to 8 lbs. in the case of movement from India to Pakistan. The Government of India have also requested all border Provinces and States to adopt stringent measures to prevent smuggling of colth, and the despatch of cloth to these Provinces and States from the producing centres is being made through dealers specially selected by the Governments of these Provinces and States. Both the Customs authorities and the Bombay Government are keeping a very strict watch on the smuggling of cloth by sea.

The recent re-imposition of control over the distribution of cotton textiles will also considerably reduce the volume of smuggling.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of questions (a) and (c), the Honourable Minister stated that the value of the seized articles are a lakh and something over. Is it not a fact that in Delhi alone on the 21st of June the cloth seized amounted to Rs. 5,51,057, the quantity was 77 bales and 491 maunds and 181 persons were involved? If so, where has that cloth gone to if it is seized by the Government apart from the seizing of the cloth from other parts of the country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, the figure which I gave related only to cloth seized in the border of Western Pakistan; I have not got here the figures with regard to the other parts of India.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister kindly state what is the total amount in the whole of India? I am entitled to that answer. The Honourable Minister should have made enquiries because this is very important.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member need not pass remarks.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What effort has been made by the Honourable Minister to see that the seized cloth also does not go to somebody else and does not become the property of the Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The honourable member, I believe, is aware that this operation is undertaken not by the Ministry of Industry and Supply, but by the Ministry of Finance,—the Central Board of Revenue—and the figure which I could get, I have placed before the honourable member. Other figures, as soon as I get them, will be laid before the House. So far as the total quantity of cloth seized is concerned, it cannot pass on to the hands of the outsiders. The stocks are, under the control of Government and they are being handed over to Provincial Governments for distribution.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister take immediate steps and inform this House as to what the total amount of the seized cloth is detected from all the places in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That action has been taken already.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he will tell the House during this session what is the total amount of cloth seized and whether they are really confiscated to the Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said, all information which will be collected will be laid before the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the total strength of the anti-smuggling squad posted on the Land Customs border between India and Western Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The Central Board of Revenue is now acting in close co-operation with the Provincial police officers and the police staff is placed at the disposal of the Central Board of Revenue.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has any special staff been recruited for the anti-smuggling squad?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Some special staff has been set apart for this particular work and now there is complete co-operation between the Central Board of Revenue officers and the Provincial Governments concerned.

Seth Govind Das: Have Government received any report that cloth is being smuggled in the Eastern Pakistan also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Certainly, everyone knows that.

Seth Govind Das: What steps Government are going to take as far as the eastern border is concerned, because some replies have been given by you regarding Western Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Same steps have been taken. What I said here was that the value of the cloth seized in regard to Western Pakistan is available to me and not Eastern Pakistan.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: Were the Government of West Bengal asked to supply the information of the quantity smuggled to Eastern Pakistan?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not in the hands of the West Bengal Government; it is really done by the Central Board of Revenue people.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE WELLS IN AID TO 'GROW MORE FOOD' CAMPAIGN

81. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a programme for the construction of tube wells in various parts of the country as an aid to the "Grow More Food" Campaign?

(b) If so, what is the total estimated cost and when do Government propose to start the work?

(c) Who will bear the expenditure incurred on the construction of these wells, Government of India or Provincial Governments, or will they share it between themselves?

(d) Is it a fact that certain firms in India and foreign countries have offered to construct deep tube wells with immediate effect at a very low cost?

(e) If so, have Government given any consideration to such a proposal: if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Governments of East Punjab, United Provinces and Bihar have drawn up plans for the construction of tube wells.

(b) The approximate cost is Rs. 30 crores. The work is in hand in the United Provinces and Bihar and will shortly be taken up in the East Punjab also.

(c) The cost of tube wells construction will be shared by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments.

(d) and (e). Recently the Government of United Provinces have given a contract for the construction of 100 tube wells in Gorakhpur District. In other provinces too, the usual method is of getting the work done on a contract basis.

Recently the Government of India invited two experts of a well-known tube-well construction firm in United States of America to carry out a survey of possibilities in the United Provinces, Bihar and East Punjab and submit to Government an estimate of costs at which the firm will be prepared to undertake the work if desired. These experts will be shortly submitting a report to the Government of India which will be duly considered by them.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of answer to (a) and (b), may I know whether any annual grant has been made for the provinces for the construction of tube wells?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: How much and to whom?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would not be able to give the exact figures; about 430 wells have been dug up in U. P. and proportionate grant must have been paid to them; so also about thirty wells have been dug in Bihar and proportionate grant also paid to them.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has any amount been given to Bombay?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No well digging construction has been undertaken in Bombay.

Seth Govind Das: Last time when the Honourable Minister gave reply to a similar question, I asked him whether some grant is being given to C. P.

Does the Honourable Minister know that there is no irrigation at all in that province and in view of the fact that there is no irrigation, will the Honourable Minister see that something is done for that province?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As soon as a province has got a plan for digging wells, Government would be giving them the necessary grant. With regard to C. P., so far no such plan has been prepared. Recently on a request from the C. P. Government, we sent our experts there and they have prepared a tentative plan and the matter is being now considered between the two Governments.

Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavaragiya: May I know whether this scheme is being extended to some of the new Unions of States that have been formed recently?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In all these matters,, usually. the initiative is taken by the provinces or Unions of States. The Government of India is prepared to place at the disposal of every part of India whatever resources it has got in the shape of technical skill or materials.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government got sufficient material, not only technical skill, but also equipment in order to help all these different provinces in digging these wells?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As the honourable members of the House know, all this equipment, or almost all the equipment has to come from outside. Every effort is being made to expedite the arrival of that equipment. As equipment arrives, we proceed with our programmes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government received any fresh quantities of equipment during the last four months since the Honourable Minister had a conference with some members of this House?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not able to say from memory whether during the last four months there have been any fresh arrival of equipment.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Have the Government received any request from the Madras Government with regard to this tube-well scheme?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Have the Government of India received any plans from the Madras Government in regard to the tube wells?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know in which areas of Bihar are these tube wells to be constructed?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I could not tell you in which Districts of Bihar these wells are to be constructed.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it a fact that after some years after the tube wells are dug, it takes away the moisture of the upper surface of the soil and makes that soil less fertile? If so, have the provincial Governments taken this fact into consideration, and what steps are they going to take in order to prevent this?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The Government is not aware of that effect.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Will the Government enquire into the matter?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Will the Honourable Minister please inform the House as to the total number of wells which have been sunk or which are in the process of sinking and the amount which has been spent in sinking tube wells during the present financial year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: In all, about 1,250 tube wells are either under construction or completed. Four hundred and sixty wells have been completed and the rest are in the process of construction. The total programme includes 6,000 tube wells.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated in his reply that no grant has been made to Bombay. May I know whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture has issued a Communique that the Bombay Government have been given a sum of Rs. 69,00,483, a portion of which is earmarked for tube wells? May I know whether this communique is correct, or his statement is correct?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would like to examine the matter further.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Has the Government made proper investigation to find out the efficacy of tube wells in comparison to open wells, because after some time the tube wells may get repairs and the farmers will not be able to find out where the repair lies?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As a matter of fact, the experience is that tube wells are better because we are able to go to the lasting and permanent water currents and therefore a more steady and fuller supply of water is available. With regard to any defects that may later on develop, if our technical staff is up to the mark, the defects will be noticed and remedied.

AIR AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

82. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of countries with which the Government of India have entered into air agreements?

(b) Are there any countries with whom negotiations are proceeding and have not yet been completed? If so, which?

(c) What are the conditions of the agreements which benefit India? Are there any terms on reciprocal basis?

(d) What are the names of Indian air services which run the services to foreign countries?

(e) Do the agreements with foreign companies include the clause that in the event of Indian Companies starting services in those foreign countries at a later stage they would be allowed to do so?

(f) What is the total number of aeroplanes owned by Indian Companies plying in India and foreign countries and what is the total capital invested by them?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) The Government of India have concluded formal bilaterial air agreements with the Governments of the Unitd States of America, the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Pakistan. Besides these, provisional arrangements for the operation of air services are in force between the Government of India and the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia, China, Egypt, Switzerland, Ceylon and Burma.

(b) Negotiations for bilateral agreements are in progress with the Governments of the United Kingdom, Switzerland, China, Australia, Italy and Egypt.

(c) Under the agreements, which are all on a reciprocal basis, the Government of India is entitled to designate Indian airlines for operating regular air services to and from the territories of the other countries concerned and to pick up and set down traffic in those territories.

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) Yes, Sir

(f) The total number of aeroplanes owned by Indian Companies engaged in the operation of Scheduled internal and international air services is 200. The total paid-up capital of these Companies is approximately Rs. 10·25 lakhs.

STATEMENT

Showing the names of Indian Air Transport Companies operating Air Services to Foreign Countries.

Name of Airline	Route operated.
Air-India International Limited	Bombay-Basra-Cairo-Geneva-London.
Air-India Limited . . .	. Karachi-Bombay-Madras-Colombo:
Indian National Airways Limited	(*i*) Delhi-Lahore, (*ii*) Delhi-Jodhpur-Karrachi, and (*iii*) Calcutta-Rangoon.
Air Services of India Limited	. Bombay—Keshod.—Porbander—Jamnagar. Bhuj —Karachi.
Bharat Airways Limited .	Calcutta—Chittagong.
Airways (India) Limited .	. . Calcutta—Dacca.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: One point I did not follow in answer to (c), whether in the event of any Indian national starting services for foreign countries, there is any provision that they would be allowed to do so?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Yes. The agreement is reciprocal.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government contemplate any bilateral air agreements with the U.S.S.R. and the East European countries?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: There has not been any move from the U.S.S.R. because there is no traffic just now. The Government would welcome any such application.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is there any constitutional obligation laid upon us to consult the United Kingdom before entering into bilateral agreements with other countries?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have we got to inform the United Kingdom after entering into agreements with other countries?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: No.

Shri B. Das: Do the air agreements with countries whether in the British Empire or other countries, provide that there nationals should not fly as Cotton did from Pakistan to Hyderabad, and what is the provision?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That flight has nothing to do with air agreements.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is the opinion of the Government of India that the flight of Sydney Cotton was not a breach of the air agreement between Pakistan and India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That is a breach; but it is not a breach of the agreement.

Shri B. Das: Have the Government of India asked the Pakistan Government why they allowed another national to break the international air rules and fly from Pakistan to India?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: That question is on the agenda. When that comes up, I will answer what we have done about that.

EXPANSION OF AERODROMES

88. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total amount to be spent on the new buildings and extension of runways of Santa Cruz (Bombay), Dum Dum (Calcutta) and Palam (New Delhi) Aerodromes?

(b) When is the actual work likely to start and when will it be completed?

(c) Are facilities provided for lodging accommodation for passengers who have to halt overnight at these major aerodromes?

(d) Besides these International Airports, are there any other major and minor aerodromes which are contemplated to be expanded; if so, which?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement (No. I) showing the total amounts to be spent on development works at Santa Cruz, Dum Dum and the Palam Aerodromes during the next two years.

(b) Work on some of the items has already started; work on the remaining items will start when the monsoon is over: all the works are scheduled to be completed within a period of two years.

(c) No lodging accommodation for passengers who have to halt overnight are provided at the aerodromes at present. It is, however, proposed to include a few bed rooms in the new terminal buildings which are proposed to be constructed at Dum Dum and Santa Cruz. It is also proposed to construct a hotel at Santa Cruz for the use of the passengers.

(d) A statement (No. II) showing the several categories of aerodromes at which development works are proposed to be undertaken during the next 10 years is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Showing total capital expenditure to be incurred on development Works at Santa Cruz, Dum Dum and Palam aerodromes during the next two years.

	Rs.
(1) Santa Cruz	2,65,91,350
(2) Dum Dum	1,83,05,900
(3) Palam	61,77,700

STATEMENT II

Showing the several categories of aerodromes at which development works are proposed to be undertaken during the next ten years.

MAJOR AERODROMES

1. Allahabad
2. Madras
3. Ahmedabad
4. Lucknow
5. Nagpur
6. Vizagapatam
7. Patna

INTERMEDIATE AERODROMES

1. Banares
2. Baghdogra
3. Bhubaneshwar
4. Gauhati
5. Asansol
6. Bezwada
7. Bombay (Juhu)
8. Kanpur (Civil)
9. Coimbatore
10. Delhi (Safdarjang)
11. Gaya
12. Jharsuguda
13. Mohanbari (Dibrugarh)
14. Trichinopoly.

MINOR AERODROMES

1. Akola
2. Amritsar
3. Bareilly
4. Bilaspur
5. Cuddapah
6. Donakonda
7. Gorakhpur
8. Jhansi
9. Jorhat
10. Jubbulpore
11. Raipur
12. Khandwa
13. Madura
14. Manipur Road.
15. Rajamundhry
16. Ramnad
17. Saharanpur
18. Tanjore
19. Tezpur
20. Vellore

Existing aerodromes not yet taken over, but on which development works are expected to be carried out :—

1. Tulihal
2. Khumbigram
3. Sambre (Belgaum)
4. Barrackpore.
5. Ranchi.

New aerodromes proposed to be constructed.

1. Ajmer
2. Mangalore
3. Aligarh
4. Berhampur
5. Calicut
6. Cuddalore
7. Dehra Dun
8. Hubli
9. Nellore
10. Ootacamund
11. Ratnagiri.
12. Salem
13. Saugor
14. Surat

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any progress been made in the Government's plans and projects for preparing the Bezwada aerodrome known as the Gannavaram aerodrome for active work?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: I think in the course of the next six weeks, it will be ready for air service.

DISTRIBUTION AND PROCESSING OF STEEL

84. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the figures of distribution of Steel categorywise for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948 to Railways, Government Development Schemes, Packing Industry, Private Industrial Development Schemes, Steel Processing Industries, and the public including Small Scale Manufacturers of consumer goods and for Export?

(b) Out of the quota reserved for the public and Small Scale Manufacturers of consumer goods, what tonnage has gone to the public in the shape in which it is controlled during 1946, 1947 and 1948?

(c) What are the names of the Steel Processors who have been receiving steel through the Iron and Steel Controller and what is the tonnage of each category received by them during 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948?

(d) How much steel has been got processed by the Railways and other Government departments from the Steel Processors during the period mentioned in part (c) above?

(e) In addition to steel given to Steel Processors as per part (c) above has any further steel been given to them at the request of private industrialists; if so, what are the figures for the period from 1943 to 1947?

(f) What is the name of office held, duration of service, salary of each of the officer in the Iron and Steel Control Organisation at Calcutta of those persons who were recruited from the offices of the Steel Processors?

(g) Is it a fact that right from the inception of control on iron and steel, steel has been sold to the Steel Processors at controlled rates and that there has been no control on the prices of goods manufactured by the said Steel Processors?

(h) Is it a fact that while a member of the public cannot get steel from the dealers appointed by Government except under a permit, he is able to get any quantity of steel in fabricated form from the Steel Processors without any permit?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Provincial Governments are free to distribute the Provincial quota in such manner as they deem necessary and the Central Government are not furnished with details of such distribution.

(c) A list of Steel Processing firms who have been allotted steel in Period III/48 is placed in the Library of the House. Similar information relating to the Period 1st January 1947 to 30th June 1948 is being collected. Information relating to earlier periods or categorywise is not readily available.

(d) 46,464 tons in 1947 and 32,312 tons in 1948 (upto September). Information relating to other years is not readily available.

(e) 3430·67 tons in 1947. Information relating to other years is not available.

(f) There is no such officer in the Iron and Steel Control at present.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Except in cases when the Steel Processors are given directives by Government to accord priority to any Government or Government spensored work from the steel released to them, they are free to dispose of the articles fabricated by them.

		1947					
	Category	Railway	Industrial Maintenance and Packing	Steel Processing Industries	Govt. Development Schemes	Private Industrial Development Schemes	Export
2	Blooms, Billets, etc.	52,708	2,925	22,474	2	154	58
3	Hy. Structurals	20,702	9,438	34,448	10,148	12,674	945
4	Lt. Structurals	9,169	14,916	38,010	11,176	12,449	680
5	Shell Steel	48	2	8	...	...	...
6A	Hy. Rails and Fishplates	69,574	2,694	427	2,505	2,262	14
7A	Tinplate thinner than 26 B. G.	63	42,822	2,248	1	1	...
	Terneplate	...	455	1,004	...	...	...
	Black Plates (P.C.R.C.A.)	...	16,036	947	1	1	...
7B	Tinplate 26 to 20 B. G.	114	43	81			...
	Terneplate		41	113			...
	Blackplates (P. C. R. C. A.)	...	58	36	1	1	3
8A	Black Sheet (Plain)	9,046	4,716	26,467	1,719	447	101
8B	Black Sheet (Corr.)	35	218	71	38	9	...
9A.	Galv. Sheet (Plain)	1,828	2,648	4,349	725	693	482
9B	Galv. Sheet (Corr.)	1,952	4,742	6,379	1,890	2,986	1,448
10	Plates (Ship building)	17	115	4,921	72	10	...
11	Plates (M. S. and H. T.)	18,204	10,005	36,090	6,548	3,980	155
12	Plates (B. Proof)	...	11	2	...	...	...
13A	Bars	42,210	18,568	46,763	39,952	16,946	798
13B	Rods	2,841	3,842	5,871	11,399	6,118	126
15A	Wire (Barbed)	30	217	53	141	36	2
15B	Wire (Telegraph)	131	55	1,318	183	11	...
16	Wire (Nails)	175	1,466	788	218	121	296
17	Wire (Misc.)	550	851	4,913	884	138	59
18	Spring Steel	9,105	286	179	9	1	
19	Hoops and Strips	309	11,837	409	55	16	4
20	Tools Steel		...	114			...
	TOTAL	2,38,806	1,49,002	2,38,483	85,659	58,954	5,121

	Railway	Industrial Maintenance and Packing	Steel Progessing Industries
*Second Half of 1948	123,311·71	42,060	99635

*Break-up by categories not yet available.

ment

		First Half 1948.							
Province States	Total	Railway	Industrial Maintenance and Packing	Steel Processing Industries	Govt. Development Schemes	Private Industrial Development Schemes	Export	Province States	Total
...	78,816	1,38,32·26	569	5,165	4	13	...	...	19,588·26
5,982	94,332	9,033·39	1,545	15,611	3,846	5.192	92	322	35 641·39
14,995	1,01,835	5,341·24	3,285	12,488	4,957	7,529	101	4,272	37,973·24
...	58	...	2	...		...		...	2
...	75,476	29,000	523	46	...	53			20,622
...	45,134	5·5	6,738	8,299	6	...			15,048·5
...	1,459	...	2	...	... ...	...			15,732
...	16,984	...	596	976	1 1	...			1,573
...	288	20·7	...	29	..	21	...	...	70·7
...	154	...	4,006	5	...	...	...	...	4,011
...	98	...	28	18	.. 1	...	...	...	47
14,896	57,392	4,750·78	1,146	17,545	1 341	366	8	5,972	30,128·78
...	366	41	53	...	...	...	...	...	94
5,985	16,660	203·79	539	3,700	517	565	4	2,125	7,653·79
73,406	92,753	1,455·96	1,519	1,689	1,104	2,375	882	18,921	27,895·96
...	5,185	32	286	4,888	...	...		...	5,206
2,987	77,919	8,847·21	1,748	13,928	5,712	2,138		314	32,687·21
...	13	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
67,052	2,32,289	27,972·34	4,903	15,820	23,373	10,860	98	20,616	1,03,642·34
8,973	39,170	1,434·72	910	1,755	2,366	305	28	10	6,803·72
...	479	7	111	67	119	15	1	920	1,240
...	1,698	46	89	179	227	3		...	544
6,921	9,085	61	1,228	365	137	117	1	1,695	3,604
1,459	8,854	160·72	342	1,560	253	248	...	420	2,983·72
...	9,580	4,155·18	137	340	86	14	...	...	4,682·18
...	1,26,300	76·55	2,758	103	29	19	3	...	2,988·55
...	114	...	...	...	...			...	...
2,01,756	9,77,781	97,477·34	33,065	1,04,576	48,029	29,838	1,163	55,587	3,64,735·34

Governmet Development Schemes	Private Industrial Development Schemes	Export	Provinces and States	Remarks
41,871·5	27,234	*86,000	56,919	Distribution of Steel under above heads was introduced for the first them in January 1947 only.

*Includes 82,000 tons for Pakistan.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know if the information which is not readily available will be supplied to this House when collected?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, the information when collected will be supplied.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Has the Honourable Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that the steel given to these processors and then given to fabricated merchants are sold without any control in prices which the public has to give and that the processors thus take undue advantage of the quantities they get?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: This matter has been brought to my notice, and in fact I received a deputation on behalf of the all-India Hardware Merchants' Association last month. The alternative is to impose control in respect of all articles, which may be difficult from the administrative point of view. We are considering another possibility and that is the appointment of field inspectors who will be able to go and examine the steel processing factories and satisfy themselves that whatever is given is utilised for purposes for which they are given. The matter is now under examination.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: In reply to part (f) the Honourable Minister said that there is no retired Steel Processor in the Steel control organisation of the Government of India. Is it not a fact that a representative of the Tata steel organisation is still with the Government of India and employed in the Calcutta office?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The answer given is correct: no one representing Steel Processors is employed.

Seth Govind Das: Is the quota of each province fixed according to population or is it in any other way?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as Processors are concerned, the quota is really fixed mainly according to capacity.

Seth Govind Das: And not according to the population of the province?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not understand how we can fix the quota in accordance with the population of Processors; it will be very difficult.

Seth Govind Das: Their requirements are according to their population and I want to know whether these quotas are fixed according to the population of the province.

Mr. Speaker: That has been replied to.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: Arising out of part (b) may I know if a proportionate quota is supplied to the States as well?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, I am including the States now.

Seth Govind Das: My question was not about Processors but about provinces. I wanted to know whether the quota is fixed for each province according to the population of the province.

Mr. Speaker: I think there was no misunderstanding about that.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as the provinces are concerned, it is more or less on a population basis, but also the capacity of each province to use steel is taken into consideration.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister stated that the reply to part (f) is correct. May I know if the Tata steel concern at Jamshedpur comes under the category of Steel Processors?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are steel producers and not processors. I shall explain the difference to the honourable member later.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Are any Tata employees still with the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes, some are.

SUPPLY OF STEEL AND GRANT OF IMPORT LICENSES TO STEEL PROCESSORS

†85. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how much steel was given to the Bengal Steel Processors out of the total quota reserved for this class during 1943 to 1947?

(b) What is the quantity of steel despatched from Calcutta either by sea or rail route outside the Bengal Province by persons other than Steel Producers during the period from 1st January 1943 to 30th June 1948, each year separately?

(c) Is it a fact that Steel Processors are also given facility to obtain import licenses for import of steel? If so, what are the figures of such import licenses issued together with the actual tonnage imported during 1945 to 1947?

(d) What tonnage of steel was imported during the same period by consumers other than Steel Processors and Registered Stockists?

(e) On what basis is steel supplied to Steel Processors? Is any enquiry instituted by Government or their demands scrutinised before sanction is given?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) 113,832 tons in 1947 and 69,730 tons in 1948 (upto September). Information relating to other years is not readily available.

(b) to (d). Information so far as is available is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

(e) Steel is supplied to Steel Processors strictly on the basis of their assessed capacity. The answer to the latter part is in the affirmative.

LEASE CONDITIONS WITH SALT MONOPOLISTS IN ORISSA AND RISING PRICES OF SALT

86. ***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lease conditions of salt given to monopolists in the salt factories of Humma and Sumandi in Ganjam District, Orissa, contained specific clauses that the prices of salt should not exceed 14 annas per maund;

(b) whether Government are aware that these monopolists are selling salt at the rate of Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per maund; and

(c) if so, what action is being or proposed to be taken to enforce the lease conditions?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) There is no such lease condition.

(b) The average ex-factory rates charged by the lessees in 1948 are from Rs. 1-10-0 to Rs. 1-12-0 per maund which on an enquiry into the cost have not been found to be excessive.

(c) Government are making a review of the existing lease conditions with a view to control the charging of excessive price of salt ex-factory by these lessees.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Minister gave us average prices which are illusory. What is the highest and the lowest price charged?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have got the ex-factory prices in the Co-operative Society. It was Rs. 2-3-1 per maund in 1946 and

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†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Re. 0-14-2 in 1947; in 1948 it is Rs. 1-12-0. I have got the average ex-factory price in other private factories in Orissa; it was Rs. 2-5-4 in 1946 and Rs. 1-0-6 in 1947, Rs. 1-10-0 in 1948.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the obvious fact that the co-operative factory is on the whole charging much less than other private concerns, will Government consider the advisability of encouraging this co-operative effort and thus contribute to the lowering of the prices of salt?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government do encourage the formation of co-operative societies; but the honourable member will note that the price charged by the co-operative factory in 1948 is annas two more than the average of the other factories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government met with any success at all in their attempts to bring down the prices of salt during the last six months?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: There is a question later on on which there will be a detailed answer, but I can just say that prices are less than what they were during the period when the duty was in force. But I would certainly like the prices to go down still further, and steps are being taken in that direction.

Shri Biswanath Das: What is the source of the Honourable Minister's information about the rates at which salt was sold at those places?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: One of the sources is the Government of Orissa whose latest communication says that prices are not such as to cause much anxiety.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: May I know the reason for the enormous increase—nearly 100 per cent.—between 1947 and 1948?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The main reason given is increased wages which are being given to labour now.

Shri Biswanath Das: Are Government aware that the prices of salt quoted from the accounts of the co-operative societies relate to the first year and thereafter they have been selling at far lower prices than the prices at which the monopolists have been selling?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have got the average prices here but I am told that prices are going down. The difficulty that arose with regard to Orissa was that stocks were depleted on account of the production within Orissa going down during the last year and Madras refusing to send salt to Orissa. But now arrangements have been made and actually four wagons per day are moving to Orissa carrying imported salt from Calcutta and another four wagons per day will be moving from Madras side according to arrangements which we have just arrived at. I believe the situation will now improve considerably.

Shri Biswanath Das: As a condition of the lease, is it a fact that the Government are given practically half of the salt manufactured by the monopolists and half of the manufactured salt is kept in godowns maintained by the Government? May I request the Honourable Minister whether he would think of putting this salt into auction to small purchasers so that the price of salt may go down automatically, and . . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the honourable member is making suggestions for action. Let him ask for information. What is the information that he wants?

Shri Biswanath Das: The information is what steps he has taken to bring down the price of salt in the near future?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have just explained I have arranged to carry salt to Orissa—four wagons per day each from Calcutta and Madras. We have in Orissa six lakhs maunds of salt in pursuance of the lease agreement which the honourable member has referred to, and it is the policy of Government to release such quantities of that salt for distribution within the province as may be necessary. But the difficulty has been that the price has to be fixed in accordance with the market rate and Government has not the right to fix its own price. I am examining the lease and if necessary we shall not hesitate to terminate the lease on six months' notice and see that salt is made available at as cheap a rate as possible.

Shri Biswanath Das: As I have complained that the salt is sold by the monopolists not at the rate at which the Honourable Minister states, but at far higher rates, namely Rs. 2-8-0 per maund or Rs. 5 per bag, may I know whether he has made any inquiries in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As the honourable member is aware I have already taken action with regard to that point.

MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

87. ***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that have occurred in the various railways of India between June 1947 and June 1948, giving the number of persons injured and also the loss of lives in each case; and

(b) the comparative figures for the three previous years and the action taken to prevent such mishaps?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The number of serious accidents to trains carrying passengers involving loss of life or injuries that occurred on railways in India during the twelve months from June, 1947, was twenty-one, including six accidents on the Eastern Punjab Railway during the period of disturbances. A statement showing the number of persons injured and also the loss of life in each case is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The number of similar accidents during the corresponding months of 1946-47 was sixteen, and of 1945-46 and 1944-45 twelve and fourteen respectively. Statements showing casualties in each case during these years is also placed on the table of the House. Every such accident is enquired into and suitable remedial measures are taken, wherever necessary.

STATEMENT

1947-48

(JUNE-MAY)

Railways	Accident	Casualties	
		Killed	Injured
2 B.B.and C.I.	Fire on 3 Dn Frontier Mail at Nagda	1	..
3	Derailment of 19 Dn Express at Itola	2	21
4	7 Dn Pass. hit by A. A. gun on a military spl. . .	1	4
	Fire in 11 Up Passenger. near Karanpur . . .	1	..
1 B. N.	Following collision beteween 18 Up and 14 Up at Kolaghat.	21	106
1 E. I. R. .	Following collision between 16 Dn Express with Goods train at Kanchrapara.	7	45
2	Following collision near Belgurriah (L.E. & No. 24 Dn)	1	17
3	Following collision near Hirodih (2 Dn & 4 Dn Mails)	1	53
4	Collision between Up Goods and Dn Workmen's train near Sultanganj.	8	16
5	Derailment of 9 Express near Pradhankanta .	33	17
			79
1 E. P. R. .	Explosion of Regfugee Spl. near Dullana	2	32
2	Derailment of Spl. at Sura Nassi . . .	1	4
3	Side collision near Ferozepore	..	43
4	Derailment of Spl. near Jullundur . .	28	25
5 .	Derailment of Spl. at Sambhu	171	300
6	Side collision at Ichana	2	15
1 G. I. P. .	Bhore Ghat (Infringing load on a military spl. hit passengers in a Pass. trani)	3	1
2	Derailment near Nandgaon	1	6
1 M. and S.M.	Derailment near Rai agh	..	28
1 S. I. . .	Derailment at Villupuram	1	3
1 Assam .	Derailment at Saptagram	..	31
21 TOTAL			

STATEMENT

1946-47

(JUNE-MAY)

Railways	Accident	Casualties	
		Killed	Injured-
1 B.B.&C.I.	Derailment of Mixed train near Chanderia . .	..	30
2	An olestruction struck Passengers in 548 Up local .	..	1
3	Burns to driver from flames of engine of 19 Dn Express	..	1
4	Fire in 3 Dn. Frontier Mail near Shri Mahabirji .	1	..
1 E. I. .	Side collision between Mility. Special & Mail at Kaloobathan	..	24
1 G. I. P. .	Open doors of a materialtrain stuck passengers in 48 Up Deccan Queen at Palasdhari	..	4
2	Fire in Dining Car on 2 Up Mail at Shirsoli . .	..	1
3	Break-gear snapped at Nagardevla	1	..
4	Up. ran into sandhump at Pomalvadi . . .	..	10
1 O. T. .	Following collision between 2 Passenger trains at Bhatni	24	23
2	Derailment of 1 Up Express at Dighwara . . .	27	44
1 M. and S. M.	Collision between 424 Up Goods and 1 Dn Mail at Ongole	38	87
1 N. W. R. .	Collision between 6 Dn Mail and Motor lorry at Saharanpur	3	10
.	Side collision between 2 Mails at Delhi Jn. . .	1	28

STATEMENT

1945-46

(JUNE-MAY)

	Railways	Accident	Casualties	
			Killed	Injured
1	B. A.	Following collision between 118 and 100 Locals at Kapurgachi		7
2		Derailment of Passenger train near Dhing Bazar	3	18
16	TOTAL			
1	E. I.	Side collision of Up. Passenger with yard pilots at Moghalsrai	17	7
2		Open door of a special hit passenger train near Jhajha	1	4
3		Collision between Express and Goods at Bahgauli	48	76
4		Open door of special struck against Express train at Sakaldiha	..	2
		Collision of Mail with buffer stop at Howrah	..	39
1	G. I. P.	Fire on Express train	..	..
		Fire on Mail train at Dhavlas	..	..
3		Fire on Mail train near Bhinigi	1	4
		Fire on Bombay-Madras Express near Diksal	1	..
	B. N.	Collision between 12 Up and 13 Dn. passenger at Itwari	..	52
	O. T.	Collision between Passenger and Goods train at Mala	8	12
1	N. W.	Fire on Passenger train at Darazpur	..	5
12	TOTAL			

STATEMENT

1944-45

(JUNE-MAY)

	Railways	Accident	Casualties	
			Killed	Injured
1	E. I	Derailment of Mail between Behea and Karisath	8	111
2		Following collision between Parcels Express and Goods at Monirampur	14	72
3		Fire on an Ambulance Special at Moghalsarai	..	..
4		Outward opening doors of carriages struck against each other.	2	4
1	G. I. P.	Fire on a Petrol wagon at Bhusaval	15	13
2		Fire on Mail train near Lonovla at	..	..
3		Outward opening door struck opposite train	1	1
4		Displaced rail caught by a train struck Gangmen on line.	3	27
1	O. T.	Side collision between Passenger train and Shunting engine at Gonda.	1	2
1	N. W.	Derailment of Mail between Shogi and Taradevi	..	10
2		Derailment of Passenger train between Kandaghat at Salogra	..	5
1	B. A.	Derailment of Military Special at Manipur Road	..	8
2		Derailment of Passenger train near Sorupeta	1	7
3		Crashing into dead end, of a rake, at Maigbong	13	81
14	TOTAL			

Shri H. V. Kamath: With regard to these accidents that occurred during the last twelve months, will the Honourable Minister give us an idea as to how many were due to negligence or carelessness of the staff, how many were due to the dilapidated condition of the locomotives and how many were due to sabotage?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Of the twenty-one accidents that occurred during the year 1947-48, as I stated in my answer, six occurred during the period of the civil disturbances in the Punjab and due to various circumstances which were beyond our control. Of the other fifteen on an analysis of the figures that I have seen, I should say that about eight were due to the failure of the human element—which might be failure on the part of the running staff or failure on the part of the station staff. Of the rest, a number as small as three might be put down to defects in locomotives. The rest is due to miscellaneous causes, such as defects in the permanent track or sabotage.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether cow-catchers are fitted with each engine on the rails?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is so, but that is not sufficient to prevent the sort of serious accidents that have occurred recently.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: What is the amount of damages paid to the claimants?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As regards the accidents that happened in 1947-48, the claims are still under examination. I might say for the information of the House that I am not at all satisfied with the procedure that we have adopted in regard to the settlement of these claims. There has been a great deal of delay and as the House is aware, I have already placed a Bill before the House regarding a change in this procedure.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether Government have been considering any steps that are necessary to prevent the recurrence of such accidents, which have been so many and so frequent in the course of these two years?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As I have already said in reply to a supplementary question, the most frequent single cause has been the failure of the human element, and the only way in which accidents on that account can be prevented is by the increased employment of automatic devices. We are considering that, but there is another side to that question: because if you are going to employ automatic devices on a large scale, there is the risk that the personnel concerned might get a indifferent to their duties. This has been the experience in other countries. Therefore, the matter has to be considered very carefully.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Did not the enquiries bring to light any planned sabotage?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Of the accidents in 1947-48, the question of sabotage has been raised only in regard to one—leaving out the accidents in the Punjab owing to civil disturbances—and that was the serious accident near Dhanbad in May. The Government Inspector of Railways arrived at the finding that it was a clear case of sabotage but the civil authorities in Bihar have not accepted that verdict and the matter is still under investigation.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the cow-catchers have not prevented accidents from occurring? May I also know whether these accidents are due to a defect in the system or due to the lack of supervision . . . . . .

Mr. Speaker: I think that that is a matter of opinion.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know whether there is any specific automatic device under the consideration of Government which will further eliminate these accidents?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There are several automatic devices under examination which will have to be applied in various sections according to requirements.

DESIRABILITY OF USING TRACTORS AND CHEMICAL FERTILISERS

88. ***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have read and examined the views of Prof. Einstein on the question of the use of tractors and Chemical manures as fertilisers, published in Indian Papers—vide *Amrit Bazar Patrika*—Dak Edition, dated the 18th June, 1948;

(b) whether Government have considered the views expressed by Mahatma Gandhi and Kumarappa of the All-India Village Industries Association on this subject; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of suspending the activities and expenditures connected with the further expansion of the industry for the manufacture of chemical fertilisers in India till this is fully examined?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Government are aware of the view held by some that chemical fertilizers are harmful to the soil. Government want to place full emphasis on the use of organic manure. But they do not yet wish to reject the experience of other countries which have benefitted by the judicious use of chemical fertilizers. In India Government have favoured the use of organic manure mixed with chemical fertilizers as has been recommended on the strength of numerous experiments in various countries and India itself.

(c) Government do not contemplate such action in the present state of opinion on the question of organic and inorganic manures.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: What has been the average increase in production due to the use of manure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That depends on the quality of the soil and of the crop, and the nature of fertilizers used. But it has been substantial in all cases.

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma: Have Government any figures in regard to that increase?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, Government will place those figures before the House.

Shri Biswanath Das: Does the Government really believe that organic manure is better for the soil? May I know the reason why a lot of organic manure, as also bone and bone-meal, is being exported out of India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Bone-meal is not being exported outside India. Bones are exported outside India and the reason is that we have not yet developed those industries which will be able to utilize the residue after bone-meal is produced. When bones are crushed bone meal is created. There is a ban on the export of bone-meal. Bone-meal is in charge of the Government of India and the Provinces.

Shri Biswanath Das: Then why are oil-cakes and oil-seeds being exported out of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I agree that oil-seed and oil-cakes should preferably not be exported but we have sometimes a conflict between two interests. We want to develop our capacity for importing certain important equipment from outside and for that we want exchange and with a view to earning the exchange sometimes articles which otherwise should not go out of India have had to go out under certain restrictions and in limited quantities.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether the exchange so earned in this transaction exceeds the sum of Rs. 105 crores that we have spent last year for purchase of foodgrains?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am sorry I will not be able to answer the question with regard to the amount of foreign exchange earned: that relates to another ministry.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it a fact that if bones are left in the field as they are by the process of slow decomposition they give better fertility and better tone to the soil than when they are applied to the soil after being crushed and treated with chemicals?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government is not aware of any experiments of that nature. But the purpose would be served if the bones are allowed to be crushed in India and the bone meal is also preserved for the purpose of manure. As soon as we develop the industries to utilise the residue the entire bone will be available to India.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: May I know whether the Government have carried on any experiments in using chemical and organic manures and if so, with what results?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have been carrying on those experiments over a number of years and there is no doubt that organic manure has got its value. But the difficulty is that if we had enough of organic manure for all our area under food crops, probably we will not use any chemical fertilisers at all. But where we are faced with a food deficit it does not seem wise to reject all the experiments of U.S..A over a century. In U.S.A. today they are using millions of tons of chemical fertilisers for the purpose of manure. If we had no deficit in food, probably we will take the risk of not using fertilisers and using only organic manures. But as I said we have an insufficient quantity of organic manure though that programme has to be developed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what special steps Government are taking to increase the total quantity of green manure available by utilising all those wet spaces that are available in the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have set up a special committee to concentrate on the work of organic manure. Government have set up an Organic Manure Committee and the idea is to develop units in all the provinces and try and mobilise their agricultural departments to encourage the production of farm-yard manure, green manure and compost.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that there is no other country in the world which sends such necessary and essential materials like bone and oilcakes out of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot say straightaway whether there is no other country.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister need not answer that question. The honourable member is entering into an argument on information which he has in his possession, instead of asking for information. A question should be put for the purpose of obtaining information from the Honourable Minister, which the honourable member himself has not got.

Shri Biswanath Das: Sir, I beg to represent to you that I asked the Honourable Minister to state whether he knew any other country which does send out as export such essential materials.

Mr. Speaker: It is very difficult to define what is an argument and what is not. It appears clear to me that this is an argument.

DISSATISFACTION AMONGST RAILWAY EMPLOYEES *re* ISSUE OF PASSES

89. ***Shri Ram Chandra Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state if any change has been effected in the matter of issue of Railway passes to Railway employees? If so, when and why?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a considerable dissatisfaction amongst the Railway employees getting salaries upto Rs. 250 per month?

(c) What are the classes of passes issued in the past and now to the Railway Employees getting salaries: (a) upto Rs. 75, (b) from Rs. 76 to Rs. 175 and (c) above Rs. 175?

(d) Are Government aware that the employees of the U.P. Government getting salaries above Rs. 200 per month are entitled to 2nd class T. A.?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of withdrawing the present rules and restoring the old ones regarding the issue of passes to their employees?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes; changes have been effected from 5th February 1948 in the number of passes admissible; from 1st March 1948 in regard to application of Indian Government Railway Pass rules to ex-company railway employees; and from 3rd May 1948 in respect of 'class' of pass available.

The reasons for the changes are the frequent and persistent demand by honourable members on the floor of the House since 1938 right up to the last Session of the Constituent Assembly for scaling down Pass concessions and the need in the public interest for a general readjustment of pass privileges consequent on the application of uniform pay scales and the introduction of the new higher scales of pay consequent on the implementation of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

(b) Yes.

(c)

Employees getting	Prior to 3rd May 1948	On and from 3rd May 1948
Up to Rs. 75 p.m.	Third Class	Third Class.
Up to Rs. 175 p.m.	Inter Class	Inter Class.
Above Rs. 175 p.m.	Inter Class above Rs. 175 but below Rs. 176 p.m.	Inter Class above Rs 175 p.m. but below Rs. 250 p.m.
	Second Class Rs. 176 p.m. and above.	Second Class Rs. 250 p.m. and above.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

ACCUMULATION OF LETTERS IN DEAD LETTER OFFICE, AMRITSAR

90. ***Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that many bags of letters are lying undelivered in the Dead Letter Office, Amritsar? If so, what is the number of such bags?

(b) Are there no adequate arrangements to sort them and deliver them to the addressees?

(c) Has it been brought to the notice of the authorities that many bags were burnt in order to dispose them of?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) The number of bags awaiting disposal at Amritsar Dead Letter Office and containing articles treated as undeliverable by the post offices concerned is about 180 now.

(b) Adequate arrangements were made by bringing staff on overtime when necessary, to cope with the work of dealing with thousands of letters which were addressed to people who had migrated to Pakistan without leaving instructions regarding change of address and whose changed addresses could not be ascertained.

(c) Only such undeliverable articles as are required under the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act to be destroyed by fire under the authority of the Postmaster-General were destroyed.

Government appreciate, however, that the existing rules were intended for normal times and not to deal with an abnormal situation arising from the mass exodus of population. They have therefore decided to suspend the operation of the rules relating to destruction of undeliverable articles in the East Punjab Circle. The result would be that till further orders there will be no more destruction in this Circle of even articles held to be undeliverable.

LACK OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR AND LOSS DUE TO THEFT IN DEAD LETTER OFFICE, AMRITSAR

91. ***Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man**: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no office accommodation has been given to the Dead Letter Office in Amritsar other than an open verandah; and

(b) whether there have been reports of thefts sometime back in the Dead Letter Office, Amritsar; if so, what is the total amount of loss involved?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) No.

(b) There was one case of theft in the Dead Letter Office, Amritsar, in the month of December 1947. The loss is estimated at Rs. 19,604 excluding the value of three unopened insured letters the value of which is not known.

Shri H. V. Kamath: If no open verandah is allotted as alleged in this question, may I know if an enclosure is allotted to the Dead Letter Office?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: Two rooms and one open verandah.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why is the open verandah allotted to the Dead Letter Office? Is it for housing the letters or as a verandah to the rooms?

Mr. Speaker: The question is not of sufficient public importance. Next question.

TIME TAKEN BY GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BETWEEN MADRAS AND DELHI

92. ***Shri B. Shiva Rao**: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the time taken by the Grand Trunk Express between Madras and Delhi by the new route and the actual distance between these two stations;

(b) the number of stations at which this train halts for half an hour and more; and

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to shorten the period of the journey?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The north-bound Grand Trunk Express takes sixty six hours and fifty minutes in transit between Madras and Delhi, and the south-bound sixty seven hours and thrity-five minutes. The distance between these two stations by the route, by which the train travels at present, is 1680 miles.

(b) These trains halt for half an hour or more at seven stations on the north-bound journey, and five on the south-bound journey, in most cases for meals.

(c) Not for the present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this train often stops longer than an hour in not less than four stations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give a detailed answer to that question but I might say that I keep a very careful watch in view of the exciting history behind the Grand Trunk Express on the extent to which the time schedule is being observed by this train and I must say that in spite of occasional lapses on the whole this train has behaved better during the past four months than for a long while past.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know whether the special officer who was appointed sometime ago to inquire into the working of the Grand Trunk Express is still functioning and is observing the movement of the train?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That special officer was appointed to make an *ad hoc* enquiry which took about three weeks. On the basis of that investigation various measures have been adopted and we have certain officers now specially set apart for the purpose of observing how far punctuality is maintained by important long distance trains.

Shri K. Santhanam: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the passengers are asked to pay for 1680 miles instead of the shorter route?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I believe that is so.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if it is a proper arrangement that because the passengers have to take more time to reach their destination they have to pay more also?

Mr. Speaker: That is asking for opinion.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Is the Honourable Minister aware that when the train arrives punctually in Delhi, which fortunately is a rare occurrence, it arrives at 2 o'clock in the morning?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact when the route of this train was changed, in view of the disturbances in certain parts of the country, we had to devise a new schedule almost without notice and unfortunately the best timing that we could propose was the timing which brought the train here somewhere past 2 o'clock in the morning. That has been changed since the 1st of August and the train comes now at the very respectable hour of 10-35 in the morning

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is this journey by the Grand Trunk Express from Madras to Delhi now the longest journey by rail in India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should say it is one of the longest journeys that any railway performs.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: In regard to (c), what is the time that is proposed to be saved by excluding Waltair as a halting station by the Grand Trunk Express and running it *via* Anakapalle?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give an exact reply to that question, but it will be a matter of about twenty minutes.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: May I ask whether Government is prepared to consider the hardship of the Waltair people—that they are deprived of a connection with Delhi from their place, without any proportionate saving of time?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Waltair was not on this route till two months ago.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Would it not be more advisable for the Honourable Minister to consider the proposal to make the Grand Trunk Express go *via* Calcutta and come back *via* Bombay, so that we may have an all-India tour?

Mr. Speaker: All these are suggestions.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: Will the Honourable Minister see that the Grand Trunk Express stops at as few stations as is necessary?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot permit these questions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that even according to the present schedule the Grand Trunk Express stops for about forty minutes at a place called Simhachalam for change of engines between the M. and S. M. and B. N. Railways, in order to save only twenty minutes by not stopping at Vizagapatam?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The stoppage is twenty-five minutes at Simhachalam.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Has the Government received any protests from the citizens of Vizagapatam and Waltair with regard to this matter?

The Honouable Dr. John Matthai: Not so far.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the question of renaming the Grand Trunk Express be considered by Governments?

Mr. Speaker: I think we will proceed to the next question.

REPORT OF WEST COAST HARBOURS COMMITTEE

93. ***Shri B. Shiva Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) when the report of the West Coast Harbours Committee may be expected; and

(b) whether the House will be afforded an opportunity of discussing it before a final decision is taken by Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The report of the West Coast Major Port Development Committee regarding the development of a port on the stretch of coast covering Kathiawar and Cutch has already been received.

(b) It is proposed to consult the Standing Committee of the Ligislature attached to the Ministry of Transport before Government takes a final decision on the recommendations contained in the report.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What are the recommendations of that Committee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The recommendation of that Committee is that the most suitable location for a major port on that coast is Kandla in Cutch.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of appointing a similar Committee for the East Coast so as to explore the possibility of development of any new major ports?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The appointment of this Committee was occasioned by certain proposals made by an earlier Committee—the Ports Technical Committee—which suggested that the setting up of major ports on the West Coast required further examination. But no such proposal has been made in regard to the East Coast.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a technical officer of the Government of India suggested that Cocanada itself should be converted into a major port?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as the recommendations of the Port Technical Committee are concerned, my recollection is that they did not consider that Cocanada was a suitable location.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: May I enquire as to when the Report of the Committee will be made as regards the question of another port between Bombay and Cochin?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That question is being investigated by the Committee, and I expect I should be able to get the Report in a fairly short time.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is the Report of the Committee the last word on the subject and are not Government going to consider the matter further?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There are so many questions to be examined. There ought to be a limit. It seems to me, so far as this question is concerned, that it would be more convenient from the point of view of dispatch of business that we should give some consideration to the recommendation of an authoritative Committee like the Ports Committee.

ABOLITION OF ISTIMRARI AND JAGIRDARI SYSTEMS IN AJMER-MERWARA

94. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that effective steps have been taken by the Provincial Governments of Bihar, U.P., and Madras, towards the abolition of the Zamindari systems in their respective areas and that the Government of India, notwithstanding their reply to my starred question No. 371 asked on 26th November 1947, have done nothing towards the abolition of Istimrari and Jagirdari systems in Ajmer-Merwara;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a pressing demand from the people in general and Kisans in particular in the province of Ajmer-Merwara for the immediate liquidation of these systems of exploitation;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had called for a detailed report from Mr. Belgrami, special officer appointed for drafting Tenancy Legislation in the province of Ajmer-Merwara on the question of abolition of these systems in the province, that the report received from him on that question was referred to a representative committee of all classes and interests and that the opinion of the said committee as also the report of Mr. Belgrami are awaiting decision at the hand of Government; if so, whether any decision has been taken thereon;

(d) whether Government have accepted the principle of abolishing these systems in the province of Ajmer-Merwara as suggested in the opinion of the Committee on the said report; if not, why not; and

(e) if the principle has been accepted, whether Government propose to set up a committee at an early date with the direction to submit its recommendations on the abolition of these systems?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India are aware of the legislative measures which have been undertaken or are proposed to be undertaken by Provincial Governments in the matter. The Ajmer-Merwara Tenancy and Land Records Bill was introduced in the last Session of the Assembly. The question of abolition of Istimrari and Jagirdari systems is now under consideration of the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council.

(b) Yes. Government have seen Press reports to this effect.

(c) and (d). The Government had received a detailed note from Mr. Belgrami. This note was referred to a representative Committee. The Committee as such did not make any recommendations, but forwarded the opinions of the individual members. Government decided to proceed with the tenancy legislation leaving the question relating to abolition of the Istimrari and Jagirdari system to be taken up later.

(e) The Government of India now understand that the Advisory Council of the Chief Commissioner have recently accepted the principle of abolition of Istimrari and Jagirdari systems prevalent in Ajmer-Merwara and have appointed a committee to work out the details. The Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, has been asked to send a copy of the detailed proposals of the committee together with his own report by 30th September, 1948 for the consideration of the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government appoint a special officer to go into the whole matter and prepare a scheme for the abolition of the Istimrari system?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As soon as the report becomes available, some such step will have to be taken.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is the Honourable Minister aware that as a result of the abolition of the Zamindari system in Bihar neither the Government nor the Zamindars have been helping the cultivator as regards water, supply of seed, etc. and that the result will be that there will be fall in production; if so, may I ask what steps are being taken by Government in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I do not know whether abolition has yet taken place.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: As a result of the Act passed for the abolition of the Zamindari, the result has been that cultivators are not being supplied with seeds, water, etc. either by the Government or by the Zamindars. As a matter of fact, even in those cases where the Zamindari is being controlled by the Government, they too are not supplying the necessary requirements of seeds, water, etc., with the result that there is fall in production.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The legislative measure has been enacted; it has not yet been finally implemented.

An Honourable Member: Will the Government go on further with the tenancy legislation in this session?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes; it is on the agenda.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: How long will it take for this measure to become effective in Bihar?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The question should be put to the Bihar Government.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: Is the Honourable Minister aware that by virtue of the Act abolishing Zamindari in Bihar, the whole Zamindari in that province vests in the Government?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question admissible here.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are Government serious about the abolition of Zamindari?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question need not be answered.

REVISION OF SANADS GRANTED TO ISTIMRARDARS IN AJMER-MERWARA

95. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the assessment of the land revenue on the Istimrari estates in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara was made about a century back and that Government agreeing to waive their right to enhance the same in perpetuity has led to an enormous loss of revenue to Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take early steps to revise the sanads granted, with a view to modify the conditions according to the modern conditions in the country?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) The whole question of the future of the Istimrari System is now under examination.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In the meanwhile will Government consider the advisability of declaring a moratorium on all the rent arrears?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I cannot straightaway answer that question.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF COMPOST AND ITS USE IN PROVINCES AND STATES

96. ***Shri B. Shiva Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to the manufacture of compost;

(b) the amount of compost now utilised in the different provinces and States; and

(c) the results, if any, of such utilisation?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Government of India sanctioned a sum of Rs. two and half lakhs to the Indian (then Imperial) Council of Agricultural Research for the purpose of training the staff of Provincial and State Governments in the Bangalore process of compost making. Provinces were asked to submit schemes for preparation of compost from urban and village refuse. The Government of India took over supervision of the schemes in August and the progress of work during the last 4 years is shown below:

Year.	No. of Urban Centres	Quantity of compost prepared from town refuse in tons	No. of Village Centres	Quality of compost from village refuse
1944-45	260	1,82,010	1.826	2,10,000
1945-46	411	2,82,670	4,247	5,20,000
1946-47	578	4,09,360	7,569	8,29,000
1947-48	566	4,86,080	27.950	12,58,986

(b) The quantities of compost produced in different Provinces and States during 1947-48 are shown in Statement.

(c) From the trials carried out in different parts of the country it is evident that beneficial results have accrued.

STATEMENT

Showing production of compost under the urban and rural Compost Schemes during 1947-48

Serial No.	Province or State	Quantity of urban compost prepared	Quantity of rural compost prepared
		Tons	Tons
1	Ajmer-Merwara	3,458 (20,000)	Nil (1,40,000)
2	Assam	Nil (30,000)	... (67,12,000)
3	Baroda State	3,011 (60,000)	...
4	West Bengal	7,000 (7,00,000)	16,730 (80,00,000)
5	Bihar	12,780 (3,00,000)	Nil (1,37,34,000)
6	Bombay	71,350 (6,00,000)	70,267 (42,70,000)
7	Central Provinces and Berar	42,188 (2,00,000)	Nil (77,96,000)
8	Cochin State (1-4-47 to 30-6-47)	434 (80,000)	
9	Coorg		9,885 (60,000)
10	Delhi	... (6,00,000)	Nil (60,000)
11	Gwalior State	10,000 (40,000)	
12	Hyderabad State	5,079 (2,00,000)	
13	Mysore State	26,737 (1,00,000)	
14	Madras	1,04,920 (10,00,000)	41,600 (69,66,000)
15	Orissa	2,956 (35,000)	23,674 (53,30,000)
16	East Punjab	5,626 (1,50,000)	80,000 (30,00,000)
17	United Provinces	1,80,760 (6,00,000)	10,16,830 (2,04,94,000)
18	Travancone State	9,781 (4,50,000)	
	Total	4,86,080 (51,65,000)	12,58,986 (76,56,200)

N. B.—Figures within brackets indicate total potential capacity for each area.

CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CEMENT AND IRON

97. ***Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how Government control the production and distribution of cement and iron in India?

(b) How much cement and iron are produced in India and what quantities are imported from outside annually?

(c) What percentage of the annual supply of cement and iron is consumed by Government works?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that any amount of cement is available in black-market at Rs. 15 per bag?

(e) What steps, if any, have Government taken or contemplate to take for making the distribution of important commodities like cement and iron cheap and equitable to the consumers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government do not exercise statutory control over Cement, but with the co-operation of the Cement Industry, there is an informal control over price and distribution. Quarterly Central and Provincial quotas are allocated and the distribution of the Central quota is controlled by issuing permits through the Regional Honorary Cement Advisers; most of the Provinces have enacted laws through which they exercise control over distribution of the Provincial quotas. Steel is statutorily controlled. Production of steel is controlled by routing all orders on producers through the Iron and Steel Controller and distribution is controlled by issue of permits by the Central and Provincial Iron and Steel Controllers.

(b) A statement showing figures regarding production and imports during the years 1943-48 is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Cement: approximately 20 per cent.
Steel: approximately 40—45 per cent.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Central Government through their Regional Honorary Cement Advisers and the Provincial Governments through provincial laws are distributing Cement as equitably and as cheaply as possible. As regards Steel the very object of statutory control is to make steel available to the various consumers Government and private—at reasonable prices in as large quantities as possible according to availability and the essentiality of the various demands.

Statement

Year.	Production (in tons).		Imports (in tons).		Remarks.
	Cement	Steel	Cement	Steel	
1943 . . .	1,698,815	1,166,204	No imports	320,063	Recently, some cement has been allowed to be imported from Soft, Currency areas including Pakistan, but figures of actual imports are not readily available. Figures for 1947 and 1948 are for the Dominion of India only.
1944 . . .	1,659,446	1,080,232	,,	334,084	
1945 . . .	1,656,750	1,088,224	,,	326,327	
1946 . . .	1,537,472	900,000	,,	30,190	
1947 . . .	1,441,335	868,580	,,	30,000	
1948 (estimated)	1,461,600	825,000	Not available.	250,000 (including non-controlled category steel).	

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS AND MEASURES TO ENSURE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

98. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries from which food-grains were imported into India during the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48, showing the quantities of each grain imported, and their value;

(b) the value of food-grains grown in India as a result of the inauguration and intensification of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign during the same period; and

(c) whether Government have under consideration any scheme of progressive decrease of imports of food-grains in order to ensure self-sufficiency of food-grains?

The Honourable Sri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement No. I is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The information regarding the value of the foodgrains produced *specifically* as a result of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign is not available. It will depend on the prices prevailing in any particular year. A statement No. II showing the total production of principal foodgrains in India with foodgrains production during 1945-46 to 1947-48 as compared with pre-war normal is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Towards the beginning of 1947 the Government of India fixed a target of four million tons of additional cereals production to be achieved by 1952. This was based on existing deficit in foodgrains. The target was then split up among the provinces by reference to what each province could achieve. The Provincial Governments have prepared their five year 'Grow More Food' plans on the basis of the targets fixed for them. The yearly schemes are in the course of execution. It is hoped that the import of foodgrains will progressively reduce as a result of the implementation of the Provincial G.M.F. plans. A statement showing the Provincial overall target for five years and the planned targets for 1947-48 and 1948-49 is placed on the table.

Statement I

Showing the quantities of Foodgrains imported into India during the financial years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48 from different Countries and their value in rupees.

Quantity in, 000 Tons.
Value in Lakhs of Rupees.

	1945-46			1946-47			1947-48		
Foodgrains	Country of Supply.	Quantity.	Value	Country of supply.	Quantity.	Value.	Country of supply.	Quantity.	Value.
Wheat	Australia U. S. A. Canada	856	2,390	Australia U. S. A. Canada Turkey	1,085	3,617	Australia U. S. A. Turkey Abyssinia East Africa Argentine	739	3,186
Wheat Flour		NIL	..	Australia U. S. A. U. K.	175	627	Australia U. S. A. Canada Ceylon	219	1,219
Rice	Burma	75	210	Burma Siam Indo-China Brazil Indonessia	416	1,578	Burma Siam Indo-China Brazil Egypt Mexico Equador Pakistan	593	3,032
Millets	....	NIL		Argentine Egypt Abyssinia Australia Iraq	71	256	Abyssinia Australia Iraq East Africa Ceylon Aden	22	63

Statement I—contd.

Foodgrains	1945-46 Country of Supply	1945-46 Quantity	1945-46 Value	1946-47 Country of supply	1946-47 Quantity	1946-47 Value	1947-48 Country of Supply	1947-48 Quantity	1947-48 Value
Barley	....	NIL		Australia Turkey Argentine Egypt Iraq	265	967	Australia Argentine Iraq	195	696
Maize		NIL	..	U. S. A. Burma Argentine	379	1,273	Burma Argentine Abyssinia East Africa Turkey Iraq Aden	414	1,254
Milo	....	NIL	..	U. S. A.	155	473	U. S. A. Ceylon	474	1,425
Oats.	....	NIL	..	Canada	32	100	....	NIL	..
Total		931	2,600		2,578	8,891		2,656	10,875

Statement II

Showing production of principal foodgrains (Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Barley anbGram) in each province of India (after partition) and increase or decrease during 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 as compared with the normal thousand tons.

Provinces.	Normal average 1936-37 to 1938-39.	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) as compared with the normal.					
					Actual	1945-46 per cent.	Actual	1946-47 per cent.	Actual	1947-48 per cent.
Ajmer Merwara	34	35	50	54	(+)1	(+)2·9	(+)16	(+)47·1	(+)20	(+)58·8
Assam	1,237	1,632	1,395	1,320	(+)395	(+)31·9	(+)158	(+)12·8	(+)83	(+)6·7
Bihar	5,002	4,124	4,389	4,311	(—)878	(—)17·6	(—)613	(—)12·3	(—)691	(—)13·8
Bombay	3,254	2,661	2,768	2,970	(—)593	(—)18·2	(—)486	(—)14·9	(—)284	(—)8·7
Coorg	37	43	41	34	(+)6	(+)16·2	(+)4	(+)10·8	(—)3	(—)8·1
C. P. & Berar	3,655	3,377	2,584	3,429	(—)278	(—)7·6	(—)1,071	(—)29·3	(—)226	(—)6·2
Delhi	47	62	38	29	(+)15	(+)31·9	(—)9	(—)19·12	(—)18	(—)38·2
East Punjab	2,206	2,607	2,354	2,373	(+)401	(+)18·1	(+)148	(+)6·7	(+)167	(+)7·6
Madras	7,304	5,970	7,000	5,832	(—)1,334	(—)18·3	(—)304	(—)4·1	(—)1,472	(—)20·1
Orissa	1,618	1,374	1,482	1,396	(—)244	(—)51·1	(—)136	(—)8·4	(—)222	(—)13·7
U. P.	9,063	9,174	8,953	9,780	(+)111	(+)1·2	(—)110	(—)1·2	(+)717	(+)7·9
West Bengal	2,856	2,990	3,845	3,641	(+)134	(+)4·7	(+)989	(+)34·6	(—)785	(+)27·4
Total (Provinces)	36,313	34,049	34,899	35,169	(—)2,264	(—)6·2	(—)1,414	(—)3·9	(—)1,144	(—)3·1
Baroda	209	345	287	N. A.	(+)136	(+)65·1	(+)78	(+)37·3	..	..
Gwalior	371	636	318	N. A.	(+)265	(+)71·4	(—)53	(—)14·2	..	..
Hyderabad	2,390	1,613	1,503	N. A.	(—)777	(—)32·5	(—)887	(—)37·1	..	..
Mysore	860	539	787	N. A.	(—)321	(—)37·3	(—)73	(—)8·5	..	..
Rampur	36	27	43	N. A.	(—)9	(—)25·0	(+)7	(+)19·4	..	..
Other reporting States	3,549	4,315	3,108*	N. A.	(+)766	(+)21·6	(—)414	(—)11·6	..	..
Total (States)	7,415	7,475	6,046	N. A.	(+)60	(+)·8	(—)1,369	(—)18·6	..	..
Grand Total	43,728	41,524	40,945	35,169	(—)2,204	(—)5·0	(—)2,783	(—)6·3	† (—)1,144	† (—)3·1

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*This does not include production in the States which have acceded to Pakistan.

†This does not include production in States and hence can not be compared with the normal.

Statement

Showing the provincial overall targets for five years and planned targets for 1947-48 and 1948-49.

Province.	Accepted targets for five years.	Planned target for 1947-48	Planned target for 1948-49
	(Lakh tons)	(Lakh tons)	(Lakh tons)
Madras	6·50	5·29	4·92
Bombay	2·86	0·57	1·81
C. P. & Berar	2·00	0·63	·58
United Provinces	5·00	2·16	5·74
Bihar	3·70	·18	1·00
Orissa	1·50	·12	·20
Assam	1·80	·09	·45
W. Bengal	4·00	..	1·35
Punjab	3·00	No programme received.	·24
Total	30·36	9·0	16·29

NOTE.—A target of one million tons has been fixed for the States.

CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION AND PRICE FIXATION OF MILK AND GHEE.

99. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether, in view of the general non-availability and high cost of pure milk, and unadulterated Ghee in the country, Government propose to consider the feasibility of introducing some measures of control in respect of their production, distribution and fixation of prices?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No.

BAN AGAINST COW SLAUGHTER.

100. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the names of Provinces, Districts, or other areas and Indian States in which cow slaughter has been permanently banned?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: A statement giving the information available is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENT I

Showing Restrictions on the Slaughter of Cattle in force in different Provinces.

Serial No.	Name of province	Restrictions in force
1	Ajmer-Merwara	The slaughter of following types of cattle (bull, bullocks, cow or calf) prohibited under Ajmer-Merwara Cattle (Slaughter) Contro Rules, 1947 : (*i*) Cattle below 3 years of age ; (*ii*) Male cattle between 3 and 10 years of age which are used or are likely to be used as beast off burden or draught or for riding, breeding or for religious or show purposes ; (*iii*) All cows between 3 to 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk; (*iv*) All cows which are pregnant or in milk or capable of giving milk.
2	Assam	Nil—Legislation to protect cattle in general is under consideration of the Provincial Government.
3	Bengal	Nil—After the lapse of Cattle Slaughter Control Order issued under the Defence of India Rules no restrictions imposed.
4	Bihar	There is no provision for restricting the slaughter of cattle in existence at present. A Bill known as Bihar Cattle and Sheepe (Slaughter) Control Bill, 1948, for regulating the slaughter of thes animals is ready for presentation to the Provincial Legislature.
5	Bombay	The slaughter of following kinds of cattle prohibited :— (*a*) Cattle below 3 years of age other than male buffaloes and those which are unlikely to become useful draught, breeding or milch stock ; (*b*) Male cattle between 3 to 10 years of age other than male buffaloes and those which are useless for draught and breeding ; (*c*) Cows between 3 and 10 years of age other than thoe sunsuitable for bearing offsprings ; (*d*) Cows above 10 years of age which are pregnant or in milk. (*N. B.*—The terms ' Cattle ' and ' cows ' include buffaloes).
6	C. P. and Berar	Following categories of cattle are not allowed to be slaughtered under C. P. & Berar Cattle, Sheep and Goats (Slaughter and Movement) Control Act, 1947 :— (*i*) Cattle below 3 years of age.; (*ii*) Male cattle between 3 to 10 years of age which are used or are capable or are suitable for breeding purposes ; (*iii*) Female cattle between 3 and 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk or are suitable for breeding; (*iv*) Cattle which are pregnant or in milk ; (*v*) Sheep or Goats below the age of one year.
7	Coorg	No restrictions imposed as cattle are not slaughtered by local population.
8	Delhi	No restrictions imposed.
9	East Punjab	No restrictions imposed but cattle (cows, bulls, buffaloes, etc. not slaughtered since Muslim population migrated to Pakistan.
10	Madras	Following categories of cattle not allowed for slaughter :— (*i*) Cattle below 3 years of age ; (*ii*) Male cattle between 3 to 10 years of age which are likely to be used as working cattle ; (*iii*) All cows between 3 to 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk other than cows which are unsuitable for bearing of springs; (*iv*) All cows which are pregnant or in milk.
11	Orissa	Orissa Livestock Control of Movement and Transactions Order, 1947, prohibited slaughter or purchase or sale for purpose of slaughter of cows and bullocks and milch cows of and below 10 years of age.
12	United Provinces	No provincial ban has been imposed yet *Necessary* provision included in a Bill to be introduced in the next session of the Legislature for the prevention of indiscriminate slaughter of cattle.

STEPS TO INCREASE YIELD OF MILK FROM MILCH CATTLE

101. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of milch-cattle comprising (i) cows, (ii) she-buffaloes and (iii) other milch-cattle in the various Provinces, Centrally Administered areas and major Indian States in the years 1938-39, 1944-45, and 1947-48;

(b) the total yield of milk of such cattle during the same period; and

(c) what active steps, if any, are being taken substantially to increase the number of milch-cattle in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Two Statements (Nos. I and II) showing the total number of milch-cattle (cows, she-baffaloes and goats) and the total yield of milk from such cattle in the various Provinces, Centrally Administered areas and major Indian States are placed on the table.

Figures for the years 1938-39 and 1944-45 are not available as the last censuses were held in 1940 and 1945 respectively. The next census falls due in 1950 and hence the information for 1947-48 is also not available.

(c) (i) Four centres are being run at Patna, Calcutta, Bangalore and Izatnagar where cattle of surrounding villages are artificially inseminated.

(ii) An Expert Committee has been appointed to recommend a comprehensive plan of action for preserving the cattle wealth of the country and for promoting its development.

(iii) An experimental cattle breeding farm is being established at Jubbulpore for evolving a general utility type of cattle. Another farm is also proposed to be established for evolving a type with high milking capacity but a suitable site for the same has not so far been decided upon.

(iv) Pedigreed bulls are being supplied by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Indian Dairy Research Institute of Central Government for improvement of cattle.

STATEMENT I

Number of Milch Cattle in Indian Union

(In thousands)

Provinces/States	1940				1945			
	Cows	She-buffaloes	Goats	Total Cattle	Cows	She-buffaloes	Goats	Total Cattle
Provinces—								
Assam*	1,377	148	Neg.	1,525	1,172	148	Neg.	1,320
West Bengal*	3,039	124	335	3,498	2,859	138	338	3,335
Bihar	2,880	1,105	88	4,073	2,929	1,172	66	4,167
Bombay	1,975	1,303	570	3,848	1,899	1,258	518	3,675
C. P. & Berar	3,462	888	240	4,590	3,594	889	256	4,739
Madras	4,999	2,869	717	8,585	5,030	2,920	548	8,498
Orissa	1,465	136	8	1,609	1,526	113	8	1,647
East Punjab*	989	1,212	331	2,532	1,053	1,375	330	2,758
United Provinces	5,726	4,061	1,619	11,406	5,325	4,396	1,117	10,838
Centrally Administered Area—								
Ajmer-Merwara	41	27	Neg.	68	97	41	N. A.	138
Coorg	39	9	Neg.	48	39	7	Neg.	46
Delhi	25	28	13	66	28	39	15	82
Total Indian Provinces	26,017	11,910	3,921	41,848	25,551	12,496	3,196	41,343
Major States—								
Patiala	180	194	222	596	216	235	235	686
Kashmir	727	357	118	1,209	725	360	88	1,173
Baroda	162	360	42	564	253	437	47	737
Mysore	1,442	536	344	2,322	1,447	561	257	2,265
Travancore	393	20	4	417	402	22	3	427
Hyderabad	2,601	1,300	893	4,794	2,523	1,188	980	4,691
Total Major States	5,505	2,767	1,623	9,895	5,566	2,803	1,610	9,979

*Estimated.

N. A. Not available.

1) Figures for milch goats for 1945 have been estimated on the basis of percentages of milking goats to total goats in 1940 as given in the Report on the of Milk in India and Burma (2nd Edn.), 1943.

STATEMENT II

Milk Production in Indian Union

(In thousand lbs.)

Provinces/States	1940				1945			
	Quantity of milk produced				Quantity of milk produced			
	Cows	She-buffaloes	Goats	Total Cattle	Cows	She-buffaloes	Goats	Total Cattle
Provinces—								
Assam	192,780	46,620	Neg.	239,400	164,080	46,620	Neg.	210,700
West Bengal	1,276,380	119,040	26,800	1,422,220	1,200,780	132,480	27,040	1,360,300
Bihar	1,785,600	1,823,250	29,920	3,638,770	1,815,980	1,933,800	22,440	3,772,220
Bombay	276,500	1,094,520	65,550	1,436,570	265,860	1,056,720	59,570	1,382,150
C. P. & Berar	225,030	483,960	26,400	735,390	233,610	484,505	28,160	746,275
Madras	2,249,550	2,295,200	129,060	4,673,810	2,263,500	2,336,000	98,640	4,698,140
Orissa	512,750	102,000	1,600	616,350	534,100	84,750	1,600	620,450
East Punjab	1,429,105	2,811,840	145,640	4,386,585	1,521,585	3,190,000	145,200	4,856,785
United Provinces	3,578,750	5,035,640	202,375	8,816,765	3,328,125	5,451,040	139,625	8,918,790
Centrally Administered Areas—								
Ajmer-Merwara	29,930	24,300	N. A.	54,230	70,810	36,900	N.A.	107,710
Coorg	7,800	4,500	Neg.	12,300	7,800	3,500	Neg.	11,300
Delhi	31,750	56,000	1,430	89,180	35,560	78,000	1,650	115,210
Total Indian Provinces	11,595,925	13,896,870	628,775	26,121,570	11,441,790	14,834,315	523,925	26,800,030
Major States—								
Patiala	178,200	414,190	55,500	647,890	213,840	500,725	58,750	773,315
Kashmir	203.560	203,490	10,620	417,670	203,000	205,200	7,920	416,120
Baroda	55,890	651,600	5,460	712,950	87,285	790,970	6,110	884,365
Mysore	346,080	316,240	61,920	724,240	347,280	330,990	46,260	724,530
Travancore	161,130	18,200	38000	179,710	164,820	20,020	285	185,125
Hyderabad	338,130	1,072,500	44,650	1,455,280	327,990	980,100	49,000	1,357,090
Total Major States	1,282,990	2,606,220	178,630	4,137,640	1,344,215	2,828,005	168,325	4,340,545

NOTE.—Quantity of production in 1945 has been estimated on the basis of figures for annual yield per milch cattle published in the Report on the Marketing of Milk in India & Burma (2nd Edn.), 1943. Quantity for Assam, West Bengal and East Punjab has been estimated on the basis of annual yield per milch cattle for pre-partition Assam, Bengal, and Punjab, respectively. Figures of milk production in 1940 have been extracted from the Report on the Marketing of Milk in India & Burma.

N. A.—Not available.

MEASURES TO ACCELERATE PRODUCTION OF CLOTH

102. ***R. B. Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cloth mills operating in the country immediately before the war, showing their annual production of cloth;

(b) the number of cloth mills at present working in the country with their annual out-turn; and

(c) what active steps are being taken to accelerate production with a view to achieve self-sufficiency in cloth in the minimum of time?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The number of Cotton Textile Mills (including Spinning Mills) operating in India immediately before the war was 388 with an average production of 4,200 million yards of cloth per annum.

(b) In 1947 Cotton Textile Mills (including Spinning Mills) in the Indian Union numbered 400 and the annual production was 3,838 million yards of cloth.

(c) In order to accelerate production and achieve self-sufficiency in cloth, more mills are being set up under the Expansion Plan for the Cotton Textile Industry approved in May 1946 which provides for about 3 million additional spindles to be installed in the country during the course of the next few years. Of these 125,000 spindles were imported into the Indian Union in 1947 and another 400,000 are expected by the end of 1948. Government have also arranged for the import of 100,000 spindles from Japan. The first post-war mill commenced production in Mysore State in June, 1948, and a second one is nearing completion at Delhi. Others are in various stages of erection. Mills are also being encouraged to work three shifts wherever possible.

CORRUPTION IN CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT OF E. I. RAILWAY AT GAYA

103. ***Sardar Mohamad Latifur Rahman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter published in the 'Indian Nation', a Patna (Bihar) daily dated the 28th June, 1948 regarding the alleged corruption prevalent in the Construction Department of the E. I. Railway, especially at Gaya?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action has Government taken or propose to take in the matter to check and stop such corruption, bribery, etc?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) A senior officer from the Headquarter of the East Indian Railway was deputed to enquire into the alleged corruption on the spot. The result of the enquiry was that the allegations were proved to be totally false.

NUMBER OF RAILWAY ENGINES HANDED OVER TO PAKISTAN

104. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engines (broad, narrow and meter gauge) in service upto 1939, and those unserviceable during the same period (each Railway separately);

(b) the number of engines of all gauges in service before partition and those unserviceable during the same period; and

(c) the number of engines handed over to Pakistan and the number of engines of all gauges now in service, which are unserviceable, which could be repaired and used and which are condemned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The information as desired by the Honourable Member is being tabled.

(b) The information as on the 14th August 1947 is not available but the number of engines, of all gauges, in service on 30th June was 8,675. The average number of unserviceable engines during June 1947, excluding the figures of B. A. Railway (which are not available) was 1,513.

(c) According to the division on the 'Notional' boundary basis Pakistan was entitled to receive 1,408 engines. Later on as a result of Radcliffe Award 1,309 engines only were recommended by the Committees set up by the General Managers as Pakistan's share. The Radcliffe Award figure is subject to acceptance by the Partition Council and as such transfer of engines on this basis has not been completed. The number of engines with Pakistan Railways on 31-3-48 was 1,378.

Number of engines in India of all gauges in service on 31st March 1948 was 7,308.

Average number of unserviceable engines during March 1948 was 1,476.

Number of engines on 31st March 1948 which could be repaired was 1,476.

Number of engines on 31st March 1948 which were condemned or awaiting condemnation was 249.

STATEMENT

Showing the number of engines (BG. MG and NG) in service during 1938-39 and those unserviceable during the same period

Railways	Average number of engines in service during 1938-39	Average number of unserviceable engines during 1938-39
Broad Gauge—		
B. N.	644	141
B., B. & C. I.	358	77
E. B.	294	50
E. I.	1,560	244
G. I. P.	673	127
M. & S. M.	300	66
N. W.	1,181	249
S. I.	154	23
Metre Gauge—		
A. B.	204	19
E. B.	207	44
B., B. & C. I.	464	79
M. & S. M.	320	50
B. & N. W.	397	24
R. & K.	89	7
S. I.	387	45
Narrow Gauge —		
B. N.	115	31
B., B. & C. I.	27	4
E. B.	9	1
G. I. P.	21	5
N. W.	100	16
S. I	11	2

Purchase of a part of Jodhpur Railway by Pakistan Government

105. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government have purchased that part of the Jodhpur Railway which falls within the Sind section?

(b) If so, what is the total mileage purchased and at what cost?

(c) Do Government propose to purchase the Jodhpur Railway lines falling within the Dominion of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) With the partition of the country, the metre gague Railway line in Sind, which formerly belonged to the undivided Government of India, automatically became the property of the Pakistan Government. The Pakistan Government were liable on payment to acquire a share of the rolling stock, plant, machinery and stores for the purpose of the train services over the Sind Section.

(b) The Sind section comprises 318.74 miles and the capital at charge excluding rolling stock etc. is about 145 lakhs. The value of the rolling stock etc. which Pakistan Government has to purchase from Jodhpur is about 56 lakhs.

(c) This portion belongs to Jodhpur State. The accession of Jodhpur to the Indian Union does not entitle the Government of India to buy out the interest of Jodhpur State in that railway.

Prices of Salt before and after Abolition of Duty and Failure of Factories in North Orissa

106. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the prevailing market rate of salt before and after the abolition of salt duty?

(b) Has the market rate of salt decreased as expected after the abolition of salt duty? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware of the cause of failure of salt factories and warehouses in North Orissa?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to help the salt industries in North Orissa?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) A statement of comparative wholesale prices of salt per maund before and after the abolition of duty in selected districts in the different Provinces is placed on the table.

(b) The price of salt has not decreased up to expectations. This is mainly due to the transport difficulties and partly due to the increase in the cost of production caused by the rise in the labour wages and gunny bags.

(c) Yes. The failure in North Orissa is due to the gradual decrease in the salinity of the brine in the Chilka Lake due to the flow of fresh water and also due to the short manufacturing season as compared with other areas.

(d) Government proposes to have an expert investigation made by the recently appointed Salt Experts Committee in order to be advised where and how far it will be possible to develop the Salt Sources in and around the Chilka Lake.

STATEMENT

Showing comparative wholesale price of salt per maund before and after abolition of salt duty on 1st April, 1947

District	Price before abolition of duty	Current price	Increase	Decrease
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
	East Punjab			
Ambala	3 2 0	2 12 0	..	0 6 0
Simla	3 8 0	3 4 0	..	0 4 0
Ferozepore	2 14 0	3 2 0	0 4 0	..
	United Provinces			
Dehra Dun	5 15 0	3 5 6	..	2 9 6
Kanpur	3 4 6	2 5 6	0 15 0	0 15 0
Allahabad	3 4 8	2 9 9	..	0 10 11
Lucknow	5 4 0	2 2 3	..	3 1 9
	Bihar			
Champaran	7 8 0	2 11 0	..	4 13 0
	3 12 0	5 12 0	2 0 0	..
Gaya	..	4 0 0	..	..
Patna	3 8 0	4 0 0	0 8 0	..
	West Bengal			
Calcutta	7 0 0	3 11 0	..	3 5 0
Jalpaiguri	6 8 0	6 12 0	0 4 0	..
Hooghly	5 10 0	3 14 0	..	1 12 0
	Assam			
Goalpara	5 2 0	5 0 0		0 2 0
Darrang	9 0 0	5 13 0		3 3 0
Lakhimpur	9 0 0	6 14 0		2 2 0
	Orissa			
Cuttack	4 2 0	4 8 0	0 6 0	..
Puri	4 6 0	3 6 0	..	1 0 0
Sambalpur	6 0 0	4 4 0	..	1 12 0
Ganjam	2 12 0	2 0 0	..	0 12 0
Balasore	5 4 0	4 9 0	..	0 11 0
	Madras			
Madras	2 10 6	1 11 11		0 14 7
Vizagapatam	2 12 0	1 9 0		1 3 0
Kistna	2 9 0	1 5 6		1 3 6
Kurnool	6 0 0	4 8 0		1 8 0
	Bombay			
Bombay	4 8 0	3 8 0	..	1 0 0
Belgaum	3 12 0	4 12 0	1 0 0	..
Ratnagiri	4 8 0	3 13 0	..	0 11 0
Ahmednagar	5 0 0	2 14 0	..	2 2 0
Sholapur	5 6 0	4 6 0	..	1 0 0
Thana	2 12 0	3 4 0	0 8 0	..
	Central Provinces			
Nagpur	5 0 0	3 12 0	..	1 4 0
Mandla	4 13 0	3 12 0	..	1 1 0
Saugor	3 14 0	7 0 0	3 2 0	..
Hoshangabad	3 10 8	6 3 0	2 8 4	..
Delhi	3 0 0	1 14 0	..	1 2 0
Ajmer	3 0 0	1 11 9	..	1 4 3

U P. GOVERNMENT'S DEAL IN SUGAR AND RISE IN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

107. ***Mr. Z. H. Lari:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware that prices of foodgrains in U.P. have been rising steadily, from month to month?

(b) If so, are Government aware that this rise has its origin in the sugar deal of the U.P. Government which abnormally raised the price of sugar?

(c) Have any steps been taken to check hoarding and profiteering in foodgrains? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Yes.

(b) The honourable member is presumably refering to the high price of sugarcane which was permitted last season. That may be a contributory factor but there are other important causes for a rise in foodgrain prices has taken place in other Provinces also.

(c) U.P. Government are opening relief quota shops in towns having a population of one lakh and over from which persons with a monthly income of Rs. 100 or less would be entitled to get specified quantities of daily ration for themselves and their dependents. The hoarders and profiteerers have also been warned by the U.P. Government that if they still persist in holding back stocks they will be running not only the risk of a fall in price, but also their stocks will be liable to be requisitioned by Government at price which Government consider reasonable.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO CHECK PROFITEERING IN SALE OF CLOTH

108. ***Mr. Z. H. Lari** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the monthly average production of cloth has been steadily going up since December 1947?

(b) Is it a fact that notwithstanding the increased production, prices rose up by 200 per cent.?

(c) Did Government take any steps to check profiteering? If so, what? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Increase in prices varied from 50 per cent. to 200 per cent.

(c) The policy of de-control initiated on the 20th of January, 1948, was in response to a demand made by the public and by many honourable members of this House during its last Session. Honourable members will appreciate that control and de-control cannot exist side by side and that Government could hardly take any steps to check profiteering under a system of de-control. A decision was taken on the 30th of July to re-impose control over cotton textiles. Nevertheless, Government are considering what steps should be taken to absorb to the Exchequer the excessive profits made by the Industry and Trade during the period of de-control. One such measure was adopted under the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948, under which a sum of over Rs. 4½ crores, which would otherwise have gone to the Industry and Trade, was levied on the stocks held by the mills and certain wholesalers on the 20th of January.

SCARCITY AND RISE IN PRICES OF CLOTH DUE TO BOTTLENECK IN TRANSPORT

109. ***Mr. Z. H. Lari:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of bales of cloth that were transported from Bombay and Ahmedabad by rail in May and June 1948?

(b) Are Government aware that lack of transport facilities has led to accumulation of stock in production centres resulting in scarcity and high prices?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 91,468 bales of cloth were despatched from Bombay during May and 72,023 during June, 1948. 44,971 bales of cloth were despatched from Ahmedabad during May and 70,251 during June, 1948.

(b) The Government are not aware that there is any lack of transport facilities; on the contrary, there have been cases where the transport facilities placed at the disposal of the trade have not been fully utilised.

EMPLOYMENT FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES PROVISIONALLY OPTING PAKISTAN BUT FINALLY INDIA

110. ***Mr. Z. H. Lari:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government of India had undertaken to provide employment for those who opted provisionally for Pakistan but ultimately gave their choice in favour of India before a fixed date?

(b) If so, is it a fact that a number of employees of the East Indian Railway who opted for Pakistan provisionally but gave their final choice in favour of India have not yet been provided with employment?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is their number and why have they not been employed as yet?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) About 4,000 employees of the East Indian Railway changed their option after relief, and of this number 1,800 are still awaiting absorption. The delay in employing these men is based on considerations of security.

PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK OF JODHPUR STATE RAILWAY BY PAKISTAN

111. ***Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that bulk of rolling stock of the Jodhpur State Railway was open for sale recently?

(b) Is it also a fact that when the Pakistan Government wanted to take over that stock, the Jodhpur State offered the first choice of purchase to the Government of India which the latter refused to avail of?

(c) Is it further a fact that the Pakistan Government have already struck a bargain with the Jodhpur State and that the said stock is now in the process of being transferred to Pakistan?

(d) What is the number of wagons, bogies and engines which are being transferred?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The Sind Section of the Jodhpur Railway, which belonged to undivided India and now falls within Pakistan, was being worked by the Jodhpur Railway under an agreement which provided that when that Section is taken over by the owning Government, that Government has also to take over and pay for the Rolling Stock and Machinery and Plant etc., attributable to the Section. There has been a difference over the time of payment by Pakistan of the value of such stock, the view of Jodhpur which the Government of India are advised is correct being that the price should be paid before delivery. In the meantime the Government of Pakistan have detained stock worth about Rs. 20 lakhs in circumstances which were fully set out in a press communique which was issued on 3rd August 1948.

(d) The stock provisionally agreed to be transferred was 28 locomotives, 192 units (in terms of four wheelers) of coaching stock and 778 units (in terms of 4 wheelers again) of goods stock. So far, according to a press communique issued by the Government of Jodhpur, Pakistan has got forcible possession, without payment, of six locomotives, 75 units coaching stock including 4 officers' carriages and more than 300 goods wagons.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RAYON FACTORY AT POONA IN PLACE OF DEHRA DUN

112. ***Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government received a representation from the U.P. Government for the establishment of a rayon factory at Dehra Dun where facilities for it were available;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government overlooked the U. P. Government's representation and gave preference to Poona for the establishment of such a factory; and

(c) if so, the reason or reasons for selecting Poona in preference to Dehra Dun?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. I may explain in this connection that Government have decided not to place any restrictions in regard to the location of rayon factories in India and the establishment of a pilot plant at Poona does not rule out the establishment of a rayon factory in the U.P., now or later.

U. P. GOVERNMENTS DEMAND OF 50,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS

113. ***Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.P. Government have asked for an immediate supply of 50,000 tons of food; and

(b) the reason or reasons for the situation in the province becoming so serious all of a sudden, while a few months back the Central Government were assured that the supply position in the U.P. was quite satisfactory and no help appeared to be necessary from outside?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). A couple of months ago the U.P. Government asked us to supply 40,000 tons of foodgrains to serve as a stabilising influence on the food economy of the Province. Recently prices began to rise steeply and to protect from its effects a part of its population with low income the U.P. Government have decided to start a large number of relief quota shops from which grain at fixed prices will be available to these persons. In order to enable the U.P. Government to supply these shops, an allotment of 70,000 tons has already been made from the Centre. As for the cause of the rise in foodgrains prices there has been a rise in the price of other commodities also and the rise is not confined to the U.P. alone.

There are a number of causes operating at present among them are increase in money in circulation, a short crop, increase in cost of production, the tendency of the producer to keep back grain in the hope of higher prices, difficulty in moving grain from a surplus area to a deficit area.

ENQUIRY INTO DERAILMENT OF 29 UP PASSENGER TRAIN ON O. T. RAILWAY

114. ***Shri Damoder Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 29 Up. passenger train of the O.T. Railway was derailed in the second week of July 1948 between Sarkara and Kashipur stations resulting in the capsizing of two bogeys and injury to several passengers; and

(b) if so, whether Government made an enquiry as to the cause of the derailment and the result thereof?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government Inspector of Railways has held an enquiry at site. The report is not yet available.

MEMORANDUM BY S. I. RAILWAY WORKERS UNION *re* ANOMALIES IN FIXATION OF NEW SCALES OF PAY

115. ***Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answers to starred question No. 431, asked on 24th February, 1948 by Shri Harihar Nath Shastri and the supplementaries thereon and state whether Government are aware of the discontent among South Indian Railwaymen cause by the delay in rectifying anomalis in fixation of New scales of Pay pointed out in the memorandum dated the 2nd December, 1947 submitted by the South Indian Railway Workers' Union?

(b) What action has been taken by Government on this memorandum and on the Union's repeated requests for representation in pursuance of the assurance given by Government on the floor of the House?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are aware of some dissatisfaction among staff of the S. I. Railway, and other railways, at delays in dealing with the many anomalies arising out of the implementation of those recommendations of the Central Pay Commission which have been accepted by Government. An advance copy of a communication dated 2nd December 1947 from the South Indian Railway Workers Union contained some such items. The reference to a promise alleged to have been made on the 24th of February 1948 in reply to a question and supplementaries from St. Hariharnath Sastri, Prof. N. G. Ranga and Dewan Chaman Lall is not quite clear, and, in the circumstances, I regret that I am not in a position to answer this part of the question.

(b) Government have taken no action on the communication dated 2nd December 1947 from the South Indian Railway Workers Union though the subject matter of that communication has received very careful consideration in other connections. Government in the Ministry of Railways, deals at present with the All India Railwaymen's Federation only and not with any individual Unions or Associations, whatever their persuasion might be, whose membership is confined to a particular railway administration. It is understood, however, that Railway unions of all persuasions, including those which follow the ideology of the I. N. T. U. C., are eligible for affiliation with the Feredation, and it is reported that two such Union have recently been affiliated.

PUNISHMENT TO STRIKERS ON RAILWAY

116. ***Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the extra expenditure incurred by Government on account of the strike of the South Indian Railway running staff during April-May, 1948.

(b) Is it a fact that the South Indian Railway Workers' Union apprised Government through the General Secretary's letter of January 1948 and again through the Honourable Member Prof. N. G. Ranga, during April 1948 of the imminence of the said strike praying for Government intervention?

(c) Was any oral assurance given to the said Workers' Union on their representation through the Provincial Ministry, that no punishment would be inflicted upon the Running Staff who resumed duty before the 26th May, 1948 on the said Union's persuasion?

(d) Do Government propose to cancel the orders of punishment passed on certain members of the running staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The total extra expenditure incurred by Government on account of this strike is approximately Rs. 110,000.

(b) No.

(c) Government understand that the only assurance given to the General Secretary, Workers' Union through the Provincial Ministry was that, if strikers rejoined duty within a reasonable time in sufficient numbers, the General Manager would be prepared at a later date to recommend to the Railway Board condonation of the break of service involved in participation in an illegal strike.

(d) The strike was illegal and staff participating in it were fully and repeatedly warned of the consequences of their actions. No promise of immunity from punishment was held out to any striker, and Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the General Manager of the S. I. Railway in the matter of punishments accorded by him in this connection.

COMPENSATORY HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY MEN

117. ***Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether representations were received by Government regarding the grant of compensatory house rent allowances recommended by the Central Pay Commission to Railwaymen in areas contiguous to the notified cities? If so, what action has been taken by Government to grant the same?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

A statement is placed on the table of the House giving details regarding the action already taken.

STATEMENT

Orders have been issued including the undermentioned localities within the limits of the city against which they are shown

Name of City	Name of Locality
Calcutta	Dum Dum (excluding South Dum Dum which is already included within the limits of Calcutta). Dasnagar. Ramrajtolla. Santragachi.
Madras	Avadi.
Bengalore	Jalahalli. Whitefield.
Poona	Aundh. Dehu Road. Gorpuri. Kirkee.
Trichinopoly	Golden Rock.

The Calcutta area includes besides Calcutta Municipality, the Howrah, Tollygunge, South Dum Dum South Subarban, Baranagar and Garden Reach Municipalities and Lillooah. Similarly, the Bombay area includes Bandra and Kurla Municipalities in addition to Bombay Municipality.

Besides, the above, it has been decided,—

(*i*) that non-gazetted railway servants if any, whose headquarters are located in the Island of Salsette (including Butcher Island but excluding the localities already included within the limits of Bombay) will be granted compensatory allowance only;

(*ii*) that non-gazetted railway servants who are headquartered at Izatnagar and who reside within the municipal limit of Bareilly due to non-availability of accommodation at Izatnagar will be granted house-rent allowance at the appropriate scales, and

(*iii*) that Delhi Cantonment (including Palam), Delhi Shakurbasti and Delhi Shahdara should be deemed to be within the limits of Delhi for the purpose of compensatory allowance.

PAY COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS *re* AMENITIES TO RAILWAYMEN

118. ***Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state when Government propose to implement the recommendations made (i) by the Central Pay Commission such as educational assistance to children of Railwaymen, (ii) in the Railway Adjudicator's Award, (iii) in the Report of the Railway Grainshops Enquiry Committee and (iv) in the Running Staff Pay and Allowances Committee's Reports?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (i) Government have not yet reached a decision on recommendations of the Central Pay Commission, other than those relating to pay and allowances. The question of their implementation, therefore, does not arise at present.

(ii) A part of the Adjudicator's Award, which is related to the Central Pay Commission's recommendations regarding leave, is still under examination, and the Award, as a whole, is of a nature that is difficult to implement piecemeal. The report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee is also expected to have an important bearing on the issues involved in the Adjudicator's Award. Government feel that it is necessary in the public interests to examine the full implications of this Award before ordering actual executive action regarding its implementation.

(iii) There has been unavoidable delay in getting the report of the Grainshops Enquiry Committee printed due to extreme congestion in the Government Printing Presses. It is also considered desirable that this report should be translated into the more important Indian languages to enable staff who are affected by it to examine the issues involved first hand. As requested by the Chairman of the Grainshops Enquiry Committee, and in accordance with the Government's own inclinations, it is intended to publish the report and Government's decision on it simultaneously.

(iv) The report of the Running Staff Pay and Allowances Committee has not yet been received but is expected to be submitted to Government during the second half of August 1948.

SYDNEY COTTON'S FLIGHT TO HYDERABAD OVER INDIAN TERRITORY

119. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the circumstances, under which Mr. Sydney Cotton was allowed to take off his 'Lancaster' Plane from Karachi airfield and directly fly to Hyderabad without landing at Bombay and then return to Karachi?

(b) Is it a fact that he violated the Civil Aviation Regulations of India? If so, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to prevent such violations in future?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of States. It has now been transferred to the list of questions for the 18th August 1948, when the Honourable Minister of States will answer it.

INTRODUCTION OF PROHIBITION IN RAILWAY CATERING

120. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that alcoholic drinks are still being stocked in the refreshment rooms of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to introduce complete prohibition in the Railway catering?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) With a view to introducing complete prohibition at the earliest possible moment, the Railway Administrations have already been instructed to examine the contracts and ascertain from the catering contractors if they would be able to dispose all their existing stocks without losing on licensing fees if prohibition is introduced from 1st September 1948.

USE OF RAILWAY WAGONS BY PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT STAFF IN SAIDPUR, EAST PAKISTAN

121. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that when the staff who opted for Pakistan left India, they carried their luggage in wagons which have not still been returned?

(b) What is the number of wagons sent in this manner to Pakistan and what is the number not yet received back?

(c) Are Government aware that about 5,000 wagons which were thus sent are being used as residence by the staff of Pakistan Government in Saidpur Yard in Eastern Pakistan?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to get those wagons back?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are not aware whether each of the particular wagons, which carried the luggage of Pakistan opting staff, have been returned, but they know that on the whole about 1,000 wagons of Pakistan Railways are on loan with the Indian Railways, after making allowance for Indian Railway wagons in Pakistan and Pakistan Railway wagons in India.

(b) The information is not readily available, and will presumably not be required in view of the position explained in the reply to part (a) above.

(c) No.

(d) In view of the reply to part (a) above, no action is called for.

REALISATION OF HOUSE RENT FROM RAILWAY STAFF

122. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the General Manager of the East Indian Railway is still deducting the house rent from the salaries of the Railway staff occupying railway quarters, although the Pay Commission has recommended that house rent allowance should be given even to staff not provided with railway quarters?

(b) Do Government propose to issue orders directing that such deduction should be stopped forthwith and the deduction already made restored?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. If, however, the Honourable Member will study para. 78 of Part II of the Central Pay Commission's Report he will find that the action of the General Manager, E. I. Railway in deducting rent from staff occupying railway quarters is quite correct.

(b) Does not arise

WAGONS USED AS RESIDENCES IN SEALDAH YARD, WEST BENGAL

123. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that about 250 families are living in wagons since August, 1947 in Sealdah Yard and no arrangement for their accommodation has yet been made?

(b) Does the Honourable Minister propose to pay a visit to the Yard and see how these men live in these wagons without water, latrine or any other convenience?

(c) Are Government aware that these wagons can be re-conditioned and used for transport and that this method of lodging them is depriving the country of the use of so many wagons for transport?

(d) Are Government aware that many of these wagons which could be easily re-conditioned for use in transport have had their wheels and other fittings removed at heavy cost to enable them to be used as residences?

(e) Are Government aware that for less than one fourth of the cost of these wagons, which cost Rs. 7,000 to Rs. 10,000, quarters could be easily built and waste of national property avoided?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Originally 241 condemned or uneconomical wagons were occupied by families of railway staff at Sealdah Station, but the number has since come down to 133. Temporary quarters are under construction and as new quarters are completed, wagons are being released.

(b) Two blocks of latrines with 12 seats and one tube-well have already been provided for the use of the families living in the wagons.

(c) The wagons used for housing the families of railway staff are either condemned or uneconomical. Condemned wagons are not fit for further service for the carriage of goods. Uneconomical wagons can be made fit after heavy repairs, but shops are unable to undertake such repairs at present, as they are clearing arrears in the Periodical Overhaul of economical wagons. These uneconomical wagons are, therefore, being utilized for housing purposes instead of keeping them idle by stabling in yards.

(d) Wheels and fittings of only those wagons, which are no longer fit for further use as rolling stock, have been removed.

(e) Does not arise in view of the above replies.

EXPLOSION DUE TO COLLISION OF GOODS TRAIN AGAINST COLLIERY SIDING AT DHANBAD

124. *Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that early in July 1948 a goods train from Dhanbad carrying merchandise and petrol dashed into a colliery siding and burst into flames causing an explosion which resulted in heavy damage to the wagons, their contents and to other property;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the time of the collision there was no driver in the engine;

(c) whether it is a fact that the driver with the rest of the crew had jumped off the train after it had left Dhanbad as he found that the engine brakes were not working and he could not control the engine; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have made inquiries as to the number of engines with defective brakes which are in use on the various railways and what steps, if any, have been taken to see that such defective engines are not put on the rails?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A yard pilot engine of Dhanbad with 23 wagons, including a petrol tank wagon, collided with an empty wagon stabled near the buffer of a coke siding, as a result of which the petrol burst into flames, and caused damage to wagons, their contents and other property.

(b) Yes.

(c) The crew jumped off when the pilot was still within Dhanbad yard but not because of defective brakes on this engine.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

PROFITS MADE BY PRODUCERS AND MERCHANTS IN TEXTILE CONSEQUENT ON DECONTROL

125. ***Dr. V. Subramaniam**: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that textile trade in general, both producers and merchants, have an organized machinery to deceive the Government by not showing the actual production and sales;

(b) whether it is a fact that, after the decontrol of cloth in January, 1948 the manufacturers have earned large profits, which amount to more than Rs. 100 crores; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make cloth available to the public at reasonable prices?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Government are not aware of any such organised machinery.

(b) Manufacturers and dealers in cotton textiles are believed to have made large profits during the period that the cotton textiles remained decontrolled but no exact figure of these earnings is available.

(c) Government have decided to reimpose control on prices and distribution of cotton textiles with effect from the 30th July, 1948.

CAUSES OF FAILURE OF 'GROW MORE FOOD' CAMPAIGN

126. ***Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have enquired into and found out the causes for the failure of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in the past?

(b) If so, do Government propose to state what those causes were and what steps Government propose to take to remove those causes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). Government do not consider that it would be proper to say the 'Grow More Food' campaign has been a failure in the past. It is, however, true that due to certain factors on which the campaign was primarily based the results have not been as good as they might have been. Some of these factors are:

(i) shortage of machinery and equipment;

(ii) shortage of raw materials such as iron and steel. coal. cement, fertilisers.

(iii) difficulty in the transport of materials required for Grow More Food.

(iv) Difficulty of obtaining high level technical officers for certain types of specialised work, as for instance for rehabilitation of tractors and working of percussion rigs for tubewells.

Efforts are being made to secure the machinery necessary as expeditiously as possible and the supply position has now definitely improved Cement is not in considerable short supply now, but coal and steel are still in short supply. Arrangements have been made to isolate the agricultural demands for these materials from other provincial demands so that the high priority that food production demands require is not lost sight of. The movement of materials for Grow More Food has now been allotted Class I priority. Efforts are being made, both in India and abroad, to recruit high level technical staff.

CONTROL OVER WORKING OF 'GROW MORE FOOD' CAMPAIGN IN PROVINCES

127. ***Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government keep any control over the different provinces in regard to the grants given to them towards 'Grow More Food Campaign' and improvement of agriculture especially on the following points:

(i) to see that the money given has been properly utilized; and

(ii) to find out what tangible results these grants have produced in the different provinces?

(b) If so, do Government propose to state the tangible results produced by these grants in terms of intensive and extensive cultivation and consequently more and better production of food from 1945 to the end of April 1948?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The responsibility for watching the progress of G.M.F. work in the Provinces is primarily that of the respective Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments are, however, required to submit quarterly and annual progress reports on the schemes financed by the Government of India. These reports supply information as to use of the grants sanctioned and results achieved.

(b) A statement showing the results achieved between the period 1943 and 1947 is placed on the table. Information in respect of the year 1947-48 is not yet complete and will be furnished to the House in due course.

STATEMENT

Showing the results achieved between the period 1943 and 1947

1. Manures distributed :	
(1) Oil cakes	48,38,000 tons
(2) Sulphate of Ammonia	4,20,000 tons.
(3) Composts	20,79,770 tons.
(4) G. M. Seeds	8,725 tons.
2. Minor Irrigation Projects :	
(1) Surface wells	64,217*
(2) Tube-wells	471
(3) Tank	3,152†
(4) Other projects	22,043
3. Seeds distributed :	
(1) Rice Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Gram	3,05,000 tons. (Separate figures not available)

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* Includes 18,668 old wells repaired.

† Includes 813 old tanks repaired.

INTRODUCTION OF "CHARGE ON CALL" SYSTEM TO MEET SHORTAGE OF TELEPHONES

128. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for telephone connections throughout India especially in business centres like Bombay, etc.?

(b) Is it a fact that Government are not in a position to meet all these demands?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a demand for sharing one telephone by two or more concerns by mutual agreement and that Government are not allowing it?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of allowing such sharing of telephones by more than one subscriber and introducing "charge on call" system to prevent loss to Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, orders are under issue for allowing extensions to third parties in places where the message Rate system is in force.

EXPENDITURE ON AND PROGRESS MADE IN CONSTRUCTION OF SINDRI FACTORY

129. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the progress made in the construction of the Sindri factory upto 31st July 1948?

(b) What is the total expense incurred till 30th June, 1948 or the latest date up to which figures are available and what are the details of the same under the following heads:

(i) capital investment on buildings;

(ii) capital investment on machinery; and

(iii) other heads?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The factory is now in an advanced stage of construction. The boiler house section of the power house including its foundations and steelwork structure is nearing completion.

The erection of the turbine house section of the power house is well advanced.

The large building in the gas production section is nearing completion and good progress is being made on the construction of buildings in other areas of the factory.

A very large tonnage of plant has been received in the country and it is now being accumulated at Sindri and erection is in hand.

A statement showing the progress made on the detailed items of work and a few photographs† are placed on the table of the House.

(b) The total expenditure booked provisionally upto the end of June 1948 is:

	Rs.	
(i) Buildings	0·34	Crores.
(ii) Machinery	1·02	Crores.
(iii) Other heads	2·45	Crores.
Total	4·01	Crores.

The actual expenditure to the end of June 1948 will be more as some expenditure statements from the India Supply Mission, Washington and the High Commissioner for India, London, are still awaited.

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†Placed in the Library of the House.

STATEMENT

Showing progress of major items of work as on 30-6-1948

Serial No.	Description of work	Our maximum requirements on present reckoning	Position on 30-6-1948
1	2	3	4
1	(*a*) **Mass concrete foundations.**	**50,000 cubic yards approximately *excluding* the foundations for the Ammonium Sulphate Storage Silo.**	Poured 0. 148 cubic yards or 40% completed.
	(*b*) Mass concrete foundation for the Ammonium Sulphate Storage Silo.	1,800 cubic yards . .	92% of concrete under floor completed. 100% of mass concrete under Haunch foundations completed. 40% Haunch foundations completed. Start of monsoon-delaying completion of concrete under floor.,
2	Structural steelwork	12,000 tons approximately	2,230 tons fabricated and despatched to site (19%). Further 200 tons awaiting despatch to site.
	Major Industrial Buildings	(1) Semi-Water-Gas Plant **Building.**	75% of steelwork erected.
		(2) Ammonia synthesis building.	Erection of compressor building now started.
		(3) Ammonia storage building.	Foundations completed. Erection not started.
		(4) Gypsum storage building.	276 tons out of 1,217 tons delivered to site and placed ready for erection. No erection yet started.
		(5) Gypsum grinding building.	**Installation of foundations in hand. Delaeyd awaiting foundatinos steelwork.**
		(6) Gypsum crushing building.	Work on foundations delayed by start of monsoon. Excavation damaged by water.
		(7) Decomposition. Evaporation, drying and cooling building.	Preparation of shop drawings in hand.
		(8) Raw materials unloading building.	Drawing detailing is in progress.
		(9) Ammonium Sulphate Storage Silo.	9 sections of conveyor tunnel floor and walls completed. 5 sections of conveyor tunnel roof completed. 9 % floor slabs completed. Erection of both inside traveller steelwork 100% completed. Fixing of shuttering in progress and 90% completed on the first traveller.
		(10) Bagging plant building	Foundations completed. Drawing detailing has commenced.
		(11) Bag store building .	Foundations completed. Drawing detailing is in progress. Work proceeding very slowly due to strike at the works of United Iron and Steel Corporation Ltd.

Serial No.	Description of work	Our maximum requirements on present reckoning	Position on 30-6-1948
1	2	3	4
3.	Major Industrial Buildings—*contd.*	(12) Power House Building	*Boiler House.*—Outer structure 100% erected. Bunker plates being erected. Riveting in progress. Total erection approximately 70%. *Boiler Plant.*—Column baseplates for Nos. 1 and 3 boilers in position on foundations. Columns being moved into boiler house ready for erection. *Turbine House.*—Foundations completed. Erection not started.
4.	Roads in factory area and housing colony.	..	All main factory roads materially completed. Road from factory area to housing colony partly completed. Roads in housing colony under constructin.
5.	Railways	..	Single line into Factory Power House completed in January 1948 and brought into use in February 1948. In April 1948 E.I.R. started installation of additional line to terminate in the Turbine House. Two spur points have since been installed. Extending the railway siding along west side of the factory has also been taken up.
6	Residential Accommodation		
	(1) Bungalow—Type A	1	
	(2) do. Type B	3	Completed.
	(3) do. Type C	4	Completed.
	(4) Hostels for officers	2 (30 rooms each)	Administrative approval and expenditure sanction accorded on 3-7-1948.
	(5) Austerity type bungalows.	20	Under construction 15% of work completed.
	(6) Nisson Huts for imported engineers.	20 (100 rooms in all)	Under erection. 26% of work completed.
	(7) Quarters type 'J'	80	63% completed, some quarters have been completed and occupied.
	(8) Quarters type K—I	75	54% of work completed.
	(9) Quarters type K—3	50	48% of work completed.
	(10) Quarters type 'L'	438	38% of work completed. Some quarters have been occupied.
	(11) Quarters type 'M'	48	All these have been finally completed.
7	Factory Administrative Buildings.	Administrative approval and expenditure sanction were accorded in May 1948. C.P.W.D. invited tenders. The lowest tender was about 34% higher than the amount sanctioned. C.P.W.D. are inviting fresh tenders.	

EXPENDITURE ON AND RESULTS OF 'GROW MORE FOOD' CAMPAIGN.

130. ***Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the "Grow More Food" Campaign as distinguished from schemes of agricultural development, has resulted in any increase of acreage under food crops?

(b) How much money has been spent by Government directly, or through the Provincial Governments, each year since the scheme was launched?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) A statement (No. I) showing the area under principal food grains during 1943-47 as compared with pre-war normal is placed on the table of the House. It would be difficult to say that this increase of 10 per cent. in area is exclusively due to the Grow More Food Campaign as distinguished from other schemes of agricultural development. It would, however, be true to say that a considerable share of this increase is due to the efforts made under the Grow More Food Campaign.

(b) Two statements (Nos. II and III) showing the grants sanctioned and the available information regarding the actual expenditure incurred in each province in each year are placed on the table.

STATEMENT I

*Showing area under principal foodgrains (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley and gram) in the Indian Dominion *(including Hyderabad) and increase or decrease during 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, and 1946-47 as compared with normal period (Average 1936-37 to 1938-39.)*

(Thousand acres).

	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	Increase (+) decrease (—) as compared with the normal							
						1943-44		1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
						Actual	Per cent	Actual	Per cent	Actual	Per cent	Actual	Per cent
						Provinces							
Assam (*b*)	3,635	4,038	3,926	4,087	3,691	+403	+11·1	+291	+8·0	+452	+12·4	+56	+1·5
Bihar .	15,760	16,134	15,824	15,785	15,967	+374	+2·4	+64	+0·4	+25	+0·2	+207	+1·3
Bombay . .	17,412	17,478	18,278	17,775	18,350	+66	+0·4	+866	+5·0	+363	+2·1	+938	+5·4
C. P. and Berar.	14,880	15,759	15,675	15,378	15,373	+879	+5·9	+795	+5·3	+498	+3·3	+493	+3·3
East Punjab (*f*)	9,545	10,158	10,832	12,060	8,422	+613	+6·4	+1,287	+13·5	+2,515	+26·3	—1,123	—11·8
Madras (*j*). .	19,342	20,478	19,928	18,364	19,203	+1,136	+5·9	+586	+3·0	—978	—5·1	—139	—0·7
Orissa	5,454	5,482	5,520	5,511	5,621	+28	+0·5	+66	+1·2	+57	+1·0	+167	+3·1
U. P. (*f*) .	31,166	32,920	32,746	33,540	32,740	+1,754	+5·6	+1,580	+5·1	+2,374	+7·6	+1,574	+5·1
West Bengal (*f*).	7,269	8,674	10,087	8,505	10,490	+1,605	+19·3	+2,818	+38·8	+1,236	+17·0	+3,221	+44·3
Ajmer-Mwrwara (*k*)	232	292	353	308	333	+60	+25·9	+121	+52·2	+76	+32·8	+101	+43·5
Coorg (*b*) .	85	88	87	87	87	+3	+3·5	+2	+2·3	+2	+2·4	+2	+2·4
Delhi † .	178	185	239	240	168	+7	+3·9	+61	+34·3	+63	+34·8	+10	—5·6
Total .	124,958	131,686	133,495	131,640	130,445	+6,728	+5·4	+8,537	+6·8	+6,682	+5·3	+5,487	+4·4

(Thousand Acres)

	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	Increase (+) decrease (—) as compared with the normal							
						1943-44		1944-45		1945-46		1946-47	
						Actual	Per cent	Actual	Per cent	Actual	Per cent	Actual	Per cent
						States							
Baroda (*a*)	1,523	1,974	1,893	1,895	1,923	+451	+29·6	+370	+24·3	+372	+24·4	+400	+26·8
Gwalior (*d*)	1,553	1,334	3,148 (z)	2,814 (z)	3,109 (z)	—219	—14·1	+1,595	+102·7	+1,261	+81·2	+1,556	+100·2
Mysore (*b*).	3,665	3,893	3,566	3,291	3,445	+228	+6·2	—99	—2·7	—374	—10·2	—220	—6·0
Rampur (*e*)	170	145	150	208	253	—25	—14·7	—20	—11·8	+38	—22·4	+83	+48·8
Other Reporting States	12,469	13,704	26,913	26,418	25,569	+1,235	+9·9	+14,444	+115.8	+13,949	+111·9	+13,100	+105·1
Total	19,380	21,050	35,670	34,626	34,299	+1,670	+8·6	+16,290	+84·1	+15,246	+78·7	+14,919	+77·0
Total IndianUnion	144,338	152,736	169,165	166,266	164,744	+8,398	+5·8	+24,827	+17·2	+21,928	+15·2	+20,406	+14·1
Hyderabad (*f*)	14,986	14,160	14,112	12,185	10,679	—826	—5·5	—874	—5·8	+28·01	—18·7	—4,307	—28·7
Grand Total	159,324	166,896	183,277	178,451	175,423	+7,572	+4·8	+23,953	+15·0	+9,1127	+12·0	+16,099	+10·1

(*a*) Rice, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Gram; (*b*) Only rice; (*c*) Rice, Wheat, Jowar and Bajra; (*d*)Only wheat; (*e*) Rice, and wheat; (*f*) Excluding Ragi only; (*g*) Eice, wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Barley and Gram; (*h*) Excluding Barley only ;(*i*) Jowar, Bajra, and Maize,only; (*j*) Excludes wheat only; (*k*) Excludes Rice and Ragi; x Excludes Rice; (z) Figures are for wheat, Jowar, Bajra and Maize, *Excludi gBahawalpur.

STATEMENT II

Showing the Loans and grants sanctioned during 1943-48

Name of the Province	1943-44 Loan	Grant	1944-45 Loan	Grant	1945-46 Loan	Grant	1946-47 Loan	Grant	1947-48 Loan	Grant
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
Assam	9,01,867	4,02,585	10,86,100	4,83,731	13,08,455	12,37,616	1,50,700	7,92,230	..	6,46,018
Bengal	62,15,000	12,84,184	23,15,000	14,74,313	41,20,500	23,72,909	41,66,700	62,82,004	..	7,65,076
Bihar	..	9,67,152	9,64,000	14,37,970	..	16,85,889	..	18,73,137	..	5,26,283
Bombay	3,00,000	8,61,771	6,00,000	40,46,028	3,22,500	47,01,176	..	36,14,950	..	60,66,234
C.P. & Berar	39,50,000	17,20,000	23,68,970	6,70,826	41,35,782	8,74,592	40,10,108	13,39,516	98,90,500	13,73,243
Madras	45,00,000	4,13,666	16,24,000	35,75,406	45,62,500	17,52,988	85,00,000	2,42,95,702	..	9,92,113
N.W.F.P.	..	1,07,500	12,59,300	11,12,342	14,31,000	3,83,079	..	4,16,299	..	1,00,641
Orissa	5,77,300	1,73,650	14,76,600	9,56,241	21,70,147	13,20,680	11,54,785	23,87,408	30,00,000	3,70,084
Punjab	..	3,00,000	..	15,70,860	..	4,32,025	..	6,45,270	..	54,19,655
Sind	..	4,85,335	..	78,000	..	2,32,775	..	4,55,997	..	..
U. P.	..	9,37,200	..	27,57,290	..	13,32,190	..	18,03,240	..	28,85,915
Ajmer-Merwara	..	99,185	2,34,250	92,012	3,66,700	2,60,900	7,91,220	9,17,265	3,25,000	40,17,196
Baluchistan	..	10,376	1,66,400	1,81,879	10,54,000	7,24,136	10,25,000	18,63,474	..	80,121
Coorg	..	48,450	..	65,930	..	1,46,555	..	2,43,169	3,73,260	3,04,131
Delhi	..	..	54,000	..	50,000	1,95,223	45,000	8,300	50,000	..
Total	1,64,44,167	78,10,054	1,29,40,620	1,85,02,828	2,00,52,284	1,76,52,732	2,03,43,513	4,79,37,961	1,36,38,750	2,00,46,710

STATEMENT III

Showing the Actual Expenditure against G.M.F. schemes for the years 1943-47

Name of the Province	Actual Expenditure			
	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
1. Assam	3,32,190	4,31,030	6,97,609	7,79,991
2. Bengal	4,87,120	6,01,179	..	..
3. Bihar	1,58,152	9,45,158	12,44,372	10,36,626
4. Bombay	2,42,686	15,20,488	27,15,210	33,15,801
5. C. P. & Berar	3,17,407	1,23,823	6,01,265	7,17,649
6. Madras	3,17,400	17,82,545	16,02,405	1,76,37,932
7. N. W. F. P.	32,102	5,09,395	..	..
8. Orissa	1,39,626	7,34,284	13,05,858	18,96,681
9. Punjab	67,390	2,22,816	..	..
10. Sind	52,679	59,265	..	..
11. U. P.	86,166	3,35,810	15,61,153	21,17,699
12. Baluchistan	3,968	83,803	..	..
13. Coorg	19,321	18,428	..	..
14. Indian Circles—				
(*a*) Ajmer-Merwara	13,741	80,307	6,52,184	..
(*b*) I.C.A.R.	1,31,600	2,85,676		..
(*c*) Delhi	10,629	..		..
(*d*) Central Vet. Deptt.	..	..		..
(*e*) Kashmir	16,800	..		..
Grand total	24,28,877	77,34,002		

SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN UNITED PROVINCES.

131. *Shri Satish Chandra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the United Provinces is a surplus or a deficit province in respect of its food requirements?

(b) What is the gap between the production and consumption of foodgrains in the Province?

(c) What is the quota allotted to the Province out of imported foodgrains?

(d) How do Government propose to fill up rest of the gap to meet the requirements of the Province this year?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) United Province was a surplus Province some years ago, during the present year it is considered a deficit province.

(b) According to the latest official inquiry (1945) by about 40 to 50 thousand tons. The exact gap for later years has not been estimated.

(c) The quota allotted to the Province for 1948 out of internal procurement and imports is 121 thousand tons although the foodgrains Policy Committee recommended no quota.

(d) The position is under constant review and close watch. Further allocations will be made, if and when considered necessary subject to the need for meeting the requirements of other deficit areas.

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS ON R. AND K. R. SECTION OF O. T. RAILWAY.

132. *Shri Satish Chandra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a great dearth of wagons in the old R. & K. R. Section of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway resulting in great inconvenience to the people in that area?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to meet this shortage of wagons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). As there is less inward traffic to stations on the old R. and K. R. Section of Oudh Tirhut Railway, shortage of wagons is experienced from time to time in that area but steps are taken as soon as possible by the O.T. Railway to make up the shortage having regard to the requirements of other districts and general operating conditions.

RUNNING OF A THROUGH TRAIN BETWEEN MADRAS AND DELHI *Via* DHOND-MANMAD ROUTE

133. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Grand Trunk Express takes nearly 72 hours from Madras to Delhi by the present route *via* Nagpur and Raipur;

(b) whether the Madras-Bombay Express and mail trains are running regularly and whether there is any military protection to those or other trains while going through Hyderabad territory;

(c) whether Government are aware that before the Madras-Nagpur-Delhi through line was opened for the Grand Trunk Express, passengers used to travel by the Madras-Dhond-Manmad-Delhi route in order to save time;

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of running at least one through train from Madras to Delhi and *vice versa* by the Dhond-Manmad route, thus saving a good deal of time for through passengers;

(e) whether Government are aware that there is a feeling in the public mind that as the first class passengers and Government officials at the top are now taking the air route, the difficulties and needs of the lower class travelling public are not sufficiently considered;

(f) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative how soon the public expect the service to be opened;

(g) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, the reason for not running the suggested train, which should not take more than 48 hours between Madras and Delhi and thus afford convenience to all lower class passengers; and

(h) whether pending consideration of the above suggestions, Government propose to consider the advisability of attaching two through carriages (for through passengers only, if necessary) to the Punjab Mail (G. I. P.) or the Peshawar Express from Delhi and attach them to corresponding trains to Madras at Manmad, and make similar arrangements for the Madras-Delhi journey and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. It takes 66 hours and 55 minutes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) No. There is no justification for such a feeling, even if it exists.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d).

(g) There are difficulties in increasing the train service on Sholapur-Guntakal section. Besides, the proposed train will take about 60 hours and the saving in time will not be very much.

(h) No. The Punjab Mail is running with the maximum possible load, and there is no room for any additional carriages, while the Journey by Peshawar Express would take about 71 hours.

FORCIBLE EVACUATION OF PASSENGERS BY RAILWAY POLICE ON AHMEDABAD-AJMER-AGRA-DELHI LINE

134. ***Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether separate third class compartments are scheduled to be reserved daily for Railway Police on the Ahmedabad-Ajmer Agra-Delhi line?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, how many policemen travel in such reserved compartments?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, are Government aware that the Railway Police many a time forcibly get the compartment or compartments of their choice vacated at intermediate stations like Abu Road and Ajmer, and put passengers to inconvenience and monetary loss?

(d) Are Government aware that the station staff and the guard on duty when approached plead helplessness before the police?

(e) Do Government propose to put a stop to the autocratic, rude and unmannerly behaviour of the Railway Police and to issue strict instructions not to coerce or bully passengers and reserve any occupied seat or compartment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) There have been instances where the Railway Police, who incidentally work under the Local Government and not under the Railway, have forcibly got compartments vacated at intermediate stations.

(d) Very few such cases have been reported.

(e) The matter concerns the Local Government primarily, and the Railway Administration has invariably taken up such complaints with the Superintendent of Railway Police, and other authorities.

CONSTRUCTION OF A PILGRIM SHELTER-SHED AT ABU ROAD RAILWAY STATION

135. ***Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any request for erecting a special pilgrim shelter-shed at Abu Road was received by the authorities concerned?

(b) What action is proposed to be taken thereon and when?

(c) What is the reason for the delay to give facilities to the Ambaji and Abu pilgrims near the station?

(d) Do Government propose to erect temporary shelter-sheds as a preliminary step?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

The B.B. and C.I. Railway have, however, a proposal to increase III class Waiting Hall accommodation at Abu Road. This forms part of the 1949-50 Works Programme. It had to be postponed, however, in favour of other major works of higher priority.

(d) The Railway Administration is being asked to look into the matter further to see what can be done temporarily to meet the honourable member's request.

SECOND CLASS BERTHS NOT RESERVED ON DELHI-AHMEDABAD METRE GAUGE LINE

136. ***Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state why second class berths are not reserved on the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge line?

(b) Do Government propose to look into this and take necessary steps?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Second class traffic on this line is heavy at present and if this facility were to be given, difficulty would be experienced in accommodating all the traffic offering.

(b) Yes, the position will be reviewed again by the Administration.

PURCHASE OF FIREWOOD BY RAILWAYS

137. ***Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the contract for the supply of firewood to Kanpur, Ajmer, Abu Road, Sabarmati, Wadhwan, Ratlam, Delhi etc., from Mhow District has been given for the year 1948-49?

(b) Is the Mhow District firewood superior to and cheaper than any other quality obtainable nearer destinations?

(c) Are Government aware that the purchase of firewood available in sufficient quantity near the respective stations where it is required will save wagons, money, time and energy and lessen congestion on railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Mhow District firewood is cheaper than other places nearer the stations under reference No information is available regarding comparative quality.

(c) Yes, provided the rates are favourable, and there are sufficient quantities of firewood forthcoming at these places about which no information is readily available.

DELAY IN DISPOSAL OF CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF MISSING RAILWAY PARCELS

138. ***Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt:** Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the number of Railway parcels missing is on the increase or decrease;

(b) whether claims for missing parcels are promptly attended to;

(c) how many days on an average are required on the B. B. and C. I., G. I. P., B. N. and C. I. Railways to dispose of such claims;

(d) whether it is a fact that the B.B. and C.I. Railways lag behind all other railways in this respect and if so, why?

(e) whether Government are aware that many claimants do not even receive acknowledgment letters for months together?

(f) whether Government are aware that many claims have not been attended to for more than a year?

(g) what steps are proposed to be taken to accelerate the disposal of claims;

(h) whether it is a fact that claimants do not supply the required specific information to trace out the missing parcels and thus delay the disposal; and

(i) whether Government propose to guide the public in this respect and if so, how?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Generally on the increase.

(b) Yes.

(c) Average time taken for disposal of a claims case on the B.B. and C.I., G.I.P., B.N. and E.I. Railways is 185, 121, 96 and 64 days respectively.

(d) The record statistics indicate that this is so.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) Considerable increase in the staff has already been made to cope with the increase in the number of claims cases. Preventive measures have recently been adopted to trace consignments promptly even prior to the receipt of complaints by exchange between important stations of lists of consignments booked but not received at the destination within a month.

(h) Yes. In some cases the information supplied by the claimants is found inadequate.

(i) A revised acknowledgment form containing helpful hints to the public has been introduced by Railways.

RESEARCH IN FRUIT DISEASE IN ARECANUT BY INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

139. ***Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer to part (c) of my starred question No. 691 asked on 8th December, 1947 regarding fruit disease in arecanut, and state whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has started any Arecanut Committee to conduct systematic research in the pests, and diseases of arecanut and their cure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram The *ad hoc* Arecanut Committee met in April, 1948 and examined the general position regarding cultivation and marketing of Arecanut, and has formulated proposals for the formation of a permanent Committee. The draft resolution governing the constitution of this Committee is at present under consideration and will shortly be circulated to the Provincial Governments for eliciting their opinion and consulting the trade interests with regard to the constitution of the Committee. On receipt of their replies the resolution will be finally published and the Committee set up.

APPOINTMENT OF LAC INFORMATION OFFICER BY PRESIDENT OF LAC CESS COMMITTEE

140. ***Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the powers of the President of the Lac Cess Committee;

(b) whether the President of the Lac Cess Committee can create posts and make appointments without the sanction of the Lac Cess Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that he created the post of a Lac Information Officer for the United Kingdom and filled it in December, 1947 against the Committee's decision of January 1947 abolishing the post from the 1st April, 1947; and

(d) age and qualification of the Lac Information Officer for United Kingdom at the time of his appointment?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) and (b). According to the powers delegated to the President, he can make appointments to sanctioned posts the maximum pay of which does not exceed Rs. 500. He can also create temporary appointments, the pay of which does not exceed Rs. 50 a month for a period not exceeding 6 months.

(c) No. That post was not filled. It related largely to research and technical work. The services of its incumbent were terminated in April 1947. In consultation with the Indian Lac Cess Committee and Indian Tobacco Committee a post of Shellac-*cum*-Tobacco Sales Officer was created and the officer appointed by the Government of India.

(d) The post referred to in part (c) above was duly advertised and about 271 applications were received. Out of these 9 were selected for interview. The person chosen was interviewed by the Indian Lac Cess Committee on 9th December 1947 and he was appointed by Government of India in May 1948. The particulars of the officer finally selected and appointed are as follows:

Name—Dr. Jagjiwan Singh.

Age—Will attain the age of 43 years on 15-12-48.

Qualifications—He belongs to the Provincial Educational Service in East Punjab and has the following academic qualifications:

B.Sc (Hons.) Botany, Zoology.

M.Sc. (Hons). Biochemistry.

Ph. D. (London) Biochemistry.

He also possesses sound knowledge of the scientific aspects of shellac, its industrial application and Marketing.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER AT RAILWAY STATIONS

141. ***Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that drinking water in sufficient quantity is not available at stations on the East Indian Railway between Delhi and Howrah and at important stations like Kanpur?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to ensure supply of drinking water in sufficient quantity at every station?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). We have received no specific complaints—but in view of the honourable member's question, I propose to have the matter looked into.

Wednesday
11th August, 1948

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

Volume VI, 1948

(9th August to 31st August, 1948)

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

1948

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II – PROCEEDING OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Wednesday, 11*th August*, 1948.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See* Part I)

11.45 A.M.

RESOLUTION *RE*-ABOLITION OF ENTRIES OF CASTE AND RELIGION, ETC., FROM GOVERNMENT REGISTERS, FORMS AND RECORDS.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri R. R. Diwakar on Tuesday, the 17th February, 1948 and not concluded on that date:

> "This Assembly is of opinion that for any purposes connected with the State or its services, the Government of India shall not recognise any caste, sub-caste, sect or religion and that in future it shall abolish the mention or entry of caste, sub-caste, sect or religion in any forms supplied by Government or in any records or registers kept by Government."

The last speaker on the subject was Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, I had already pointed out in the portion of my speech delivered on the 17th of February that this Resolution was a little premature and the remedy suggested was not liked by a very large section of the people. I had also pointed out that however abhorrent the existence of caste may be, it is a fact of the Hindu society, and unless we advance educationally and make further progress from the point of view of the better organization of the Hindu society, a proposal like this was likely to be misunderstood and misconstrued. It has got to be realized that even up to date, the Hindu Law which is in force is based on a caste system. The adoptions, the marriages and so many provisions of law have to take full cognizance of the existence of the caste system and however keen we may be to see that the caste distinctions go out of our life, and that caste quarrels and disputes are eliminated, this is not the way in which it would be possible to do it.

At the present time as we all know, Sir, the progress of the Hindu society is very much one-sided. The education as well as wealth is concentrated in the hands of a very small minority castes. Fortunately or unfortunately these minorities and these castes and communities can be easily specified, and when such a proposal emanates and especially when we find that the real sponsors of this idea belong to these exploiting small castes, there is a natural feeling of

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

suspicion in the minds of the so-called majority communities, which are backward, which are living in rural areas, which have had no share—not at all an adequate share—of education in the country nor of any amenities of life in the whole length and breadth of India.

So, Sir, although I agree with the principle behind the Resolution, I had suggested that this is not the proper time at which such a Resolution should be pressed. I had also wanted that the Government should not make a precipitate declaration of their policy however welcome the principle behind it may be. And the announcement that was made by Government, I am prepared to call it most unfortunate because that does make people to believe that it is the intention of Government that the advanced shall remain advanced and the backward shall remain where they are. There has got to be some helping hand given to the rural people of the backward castes and communities and unless that is done, unless we are, on a somewhat equal basis, till then free competition should not come in. You cannot expect a village boy whose life is surrounded by everything adverse to education to compete on equal terms with one who has every facility at his command in spite of the fact that a village boy is not in any way inferior either in brains or character to a boy living in a town. We are not on any footing of equality—not even seeming equality. I think, Sir, merely to pronounce that everything should go by merit, that there is no need of any help to anybody who suffers from handicaps, within whose reach we have not been able to carry education, would not be a good thing and you cannot expect it to be approved by the whole people.

So I suggest that although we approve of the good intention and the aim behind the Resolution, there should be every effort made to remove the handicaps and to help those persons who are backward. I can mention the innumerable handicaps suffered by the rural areas from an instance from my own life. In the third primary standard, Sir, I had to waste one year even after having passed the third standard examination because the fourth class was not till then opened in my own village. It is impossible to ask a boy coming from rural areas to compete and expect that he shall stand first-class first. It is impossible for him to compete with anybody who had colleges and universities next-door to him. How can he, Sir, compete on the basis of share equality. All these things have got to be taken into consideration. I do not mean that there should be any proportionate representation or any reservations—that is not my idea. But there is a very large group of people, there are millions of people, who are suffering from this handicap and if we go in a precipitate manner it is likely that their interest will suffer. Only the other day I heard an instance of the Bombay Government having recuited, out of 42 sub-judges, 38 persons belonging to a very small minority community; two were Christians and the remaining two I am told were Muslims. These are things which are facts. We cannot be blind to facts. In the Central Provinces as well as in Bombay the majority of people feel despondent, feel desperate, that their interests are not being protected, that those who are in authority are merely interested in their relatives and their own people whose caste they know without being included in the applications. Those things they are doing almost every day, and this is the reason, Sir, why the majority of the people, the rural people especially, view all such attempts which are clothed in very good language, which make a show of being on a very high level, with suspicion. All these things create suspicion in the minds of the people and any premature pronouncement by the Government and any commitment on this subject would be disastrous and would be disliked by a large section of the people.

I would much rather that if such a suggestion is to emanate, it should be examined in all its bearings much more carefully than has been done or is likely to be done. And while a Resolution like this is before the House I would rather suggest, if there is room for compromise, that the whole question of how to eliminate castes and sub-castes and racial and communal feelings should be investigated and a proper remedy put forward. Unless some such thing is done we are likely to believe that simply because some people happen to occupy high places at the present day they are trying to exploit the position to the utmost of their ability under one name—or the other.

This is a good principle as I have said several times; but it is prematurely brought forward. And if this Resolution is accepted in any shape or form by this Government it will create considerable dissatisfaction in the country, which ought to be the concern of the Government to avoid.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister for Home, Information and Broadcasting and the States): Sir, with the general principle underlying the Resolution, there is a good deal of sympathy and the Government would like to go towards the fulfilment of the object of the Resolution as far as possible. But at the same time it must be remembered that long-established habits are not easily wiped off by either passing a Resolution or forcing the pace against the will of ignorant, vast masses of humanity. The Members of this House must be aware of what we have done in the Constituent Assembly. We have not been able to wipe out reservations either for the Anglo-Indians or the Christians or Muslims or Sikhs. Although we are trying as far as possible to remove these major distinctions of community from our Legislatures, we are not able to ignore these facts. So also we have to reckon with the existing state of things which have continued for centuries. Therefore, while it is true that since August 15th there can be only one nationality in Free India which covers all the castes and communities and there should be no distinction on the basis of religion also, we cannot ignore the fact that in spite of our attempt to provide in the constitution and our efforts both in the Provinces and in the Centre to wipe out the curse of 'untouchability' nobody will say that we have succeeded. We have to make tremendous efforts. Therefore, I would urge the Mover of the Resolution not to force the pace, because the object of the Mover can be served only by educating the people and by taking them with us as well as by allowing the forces of democracy or the impact of democracy to work. We have had not one election after the 15th of August and we have not had the constitution also passed. We will have to make a tremendous effort in this direction and we are anxious to go as far as possible. On behalf of Government I am prepared to say that we are ready to examine this case further and to appoint a Committee to go into the whole question and see how far we can take action in this matter without creating a confusion in the country or a conflict or an explosion. It is not so easy as is supposed to be. It is a good thing to do, but we must not force the pace too much. That is all I can say on behalf of the Government and I hope the Mover of the Resolution will be satisfied by the attitude that Government has taken that a committee may be appointed to examine the whole thing and Government would as far as possible give effect to the recommendations of the Committee.

Shri R. R. Diwakar (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the Government has accepted the objective and in view of the fact that some people unfortunately look upon the Resolution with some kind of suspicion, I would say that what the Resolution wanted to do was merely to retrace the steps which the British Government had taken to encourage caste consciousness, caste organisations and caste conflicts. It was the deliberate attempt of the British Government since 1923 especially to encourage all these tendencies in the body politic of the Indian nation. If we do not realise this

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fact, then of course I think we are looking at this question from a very wrong point of view. Therefore, the Resolution really pointed out that any encouragement that is being or has been given by the Government in its records or in application forms etc. ought to stop. That was the only object. In fact, very recently, in applications from refugees for loans caste had to be mentioned. Even in railway risk note forms caste has to be mentioned. . . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The honourable member is making a regular speech.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: I would like to explain.

Mr. Speaker: It need not be done at length.

Shri R. R. Diwakar: So, that was the intention of this Resolution and nothing more, but as I say, in view of the fact that the Government is going into the matter—and I am sure that the National Government would do its best to see that a very strong and consolidated body politic emerges in this country—I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member wishes to have leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* MEASURES TO CHECK RISING PRICES OF NECESSARY COMMODITIES

Mr. Speaker: The next Resolution is Seth Damodar Swarup's. But I find that he is not there and Pandit Govind Malaviya has been given authority on his behalf. 12 Noon

Incidentally, honourable members must know that there is a time-limit prescribed. The ordinary time-limit is 15 minutes, but in view of the fact that a very large number of honourable members wish to speak, the Mover may take 15 minutes and others will take about 10 minutes.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (U.P.: General): Sir, I was under the impression that under the Rules the Mover is entitled to 30 minutes, but I shall confine myself to 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I will just verify.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: It is all right. Your ruling is perfectly enough for me.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a ruling. I said from memory. I will just look up. Yes, it is thirty minutes; the honourable member is right.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: But I shall try to confine my speech to 15 minutes or so.

Sir, it is in a spirit of grave anxiety and concern that I rise to move:

> "This Assembly views with grabe concern the continuing rise in the prices of the necessary commodities of life in the country, and is of opinion that the Government should forthwith appoint a Commission to visit the different provinces and to report within three months upon the causes of such abnormal rise and to suggest measures for effectively bringing down immediately these soaring prices of all necessities, specially of food grains eatables and cloth."

It is no exaggeration to say, Sir, that the people of India are groaning under the weight of these high prices. The misery and suffering which prevail in the land are simply indescribable. Only a few days ago the latest review of the movement of foodgrain and other commodity prices was published and it showed a still further rise in all the five groups mentioned in it. Cereals have reached the unprecedented figure of 448.2 as against the 100 of August 1939;

pulses had another rise of 11 per cent., and reached 421.2; textiles rose by another 6.8 per cent. and reached 417; under other groups like food articles, industrial raw materials, semi-manufactured goods; manufactured articles and miscellaneous, there was an all-round rise. Besides that, we know from our daily experience that the prices of articles required for every day life have become impossible. It is not merely the articles which are given in that list, but every little thing, every article of daily need and requirement, is well beyond the reach of the average man in India today. Ghee is selling at about 2¼ chataks to a Rupee; wheat is selling about 22 chataks to a Rupee; sugar is a rupee a seer; vegetables are selling anywhere between a Rupee to two Rupees a seer; potatoes are selling at a Rupee and a half a seer; meat, fish, poultry and eggs are in the same condition; even salt, Sir against the tax on which our revered late Mahatmaji led such a campaign, even that salt, Sir, today is not available for less than 4 annas a seer. Sometimes people have been known to have had to pay a Rupee for a seer of it. Milk which is the foundation-stone of national health, milk which is the sustenance of children and of expecting and nursing mothers, that milk, Sir, is not available in this country in a pure form for anything less than a Rupee a seer or so. That is how things stand. Similarly, Sir, there are numerous other articles. Cloth has become a luxury. Parents and housewives, even when in distress about cloth, do not dare to think of purchasing it. If any child, a little school boy of the family, is to be shod, one needs at least about ten Rupees to get an ordinary pair of shoes; his books, his pencil, his pencil-cutter, everything has assumed proportions in prices which are well beyond the reach of an ordinary average family; accommodation, transport, day to day ordinary cost of services, everything that is essential to enable a person to live have reached prices which are all but impossible. Mahatmaji once talked of Himalayan blunders; he was big like the Himalayas to cover them up. I wonder what we shall do about these Himalayan prices, Sir, under the weight of which life in the country seems to be crushed.

Sir, it is a very difficult situation that we are faced with. Society can be divided into four sections, 2 upper and 2 lower. The upper sections do not very much matter, Sir, because somehow or the other—I shall not go into it—whatever be the cost of things, they can somehow carry on. But the middle class and the poorer people are finding it utterly impossible to carry on as things are. I know, Sir, that the Government is doing its very best to meet the situation. I know from personal contact, Sir, that every Minister is doing all that is humanly possible to meet this situation. Nothing is being left undone by them, but, Sir, what is wanted is results. The effort is there, but unless the results are achieved, things will simply not do.

Sir, our immediate future prospects also do not seem to be very bright. The excessive rains which we have had during the past one month, almost all over north India, have largely destroyed the seed-grains which had been sown in the fields. The Kharif crop, therefore, is almost gone. There is a saying in Hindi: "Mahangi men ata geela". I don't know how the situation will stand at the end of a few months.

Sir, everybody feels happy that the Government have decided to tackle that octopus of inflation. But, Sir, it seems to me that the government's great difficulty is that on the one side, its mental tendencies and idealogical outlook are socialistic which wants to do whatever may be possible in one particular direction, and on the other hand it has got, Sir, to work under the sheer force of circumstances about it; and I dare say, Sir that if Acharya Narendra Deo or Shri Jai Prakash Narain were there in spite of their empty criticisms, they could have done nothing else. The difficulty, therefore, Sir, is that on the other hand, the government tied down on all sides by the force of existing circumstances, has to function through the old old order, bureaucratic, capita-

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

listic, ponderous and unimaginative. Sir, as I said, we want results. We want that the Government should be able to adopt some method or some way by which we may be able to bring down these prices. I do not wish to rush with suggestions, Sir, in that matter. It is for the Government to devise the way.

May be, Sir, that (i) the scheme propounded by Acharya Vinoba Bhave for realization of Government revenues in kind as a temporary measure may prove effective; or, may be, Sir, that (ii) a determined and effective method of subsidised low prices of some of the main necessities of life may help the situation. We know, Sir, that in England and other countries throughout the war even when they were in the gravest of difficulties, the prices of necessary commodities of life in most instances were kept down almost at the pre-war level by subsidies from the State. Milk throughout the war was sold in England at 5d. to the quart. Sir, may be that by that method we can bring down the prices of grains and cloth and thereby seriously affect the entire price structure in the country.

May be, Sir, that (iii)—, I say this without the least desire in any way to criticise or apportion blame anywhere, but we know that almost all the ills and difficulties that we suffer from today are due to the present difficulty of railway transport. May be, Sir, that if we could hand over the complete railway organisation and administration into the hands of a body created *ad hoc* for the purpose for the time being; if we could completely re-orientalise the railway administration, we may be able to get over that terrible bottle-neck where everything seems to be stuck up today.

Or Sir, may be, that (iv) as a temporary measure, to meet the danger and crisis that we are faced with, the handing over of this entire problem into the hands of the big industrialists and capitalists of the country so that they might treble the production which we have today, may do the needful. On the contrary, Sir, may be that (v) a complete taking over by the government of all the production units of the country for the purpose of creating within them the necessary congenial atmosphere for much increased productivity will be necessary to meet this serious menace. Whatever it may be, the Government must take immediate action in this direction. No Government, Sir howsoever good it may be, no Government, howsoever patriotic it may be, no Government, Sir, howsoever adored it may be by its people, can hope to live if its people die of hunger and want The Government that we have in this country today is our own. No better team, no better Government, no better set of people could be found to carry on the heavy responsibility that lies on their shoulders. Sir, the eyes of the famished children, the ill-fed youth and the semi-starved mothers of this land are raised towards them. The immediate urgency, Sir, is to devise ways by which the present day impossible prices will be brought down and the people will be enabled to get what is absolutely essential to enable them to live. If we can achieve that, Sir, we shall not only have solved our great problem, but we shall have made a success of the independence that we have so dearly won for our country.

I understand, Sir, that our great Prime Minister has probably an idea that these Commissions only delay things. None will be happier than myself if some method is found to accelerate things and to achieve results quicker than three months which is the time within which this Commission is, in this resolution, asked to report. What we want is result. What we want is that the high prices and the inflation which prevail in this country should be effectively checked. It is not difficult to see who profits by them; it is not difficult to see who reaps the benefit out of them. We should find some way or the other by which we should be able to make it possible for the middle class man in this country to procure from day to day with the means at his disposal, what is essential to enable him to keep his body and soul together. If we do that much, Sir, we shall have solved the biggest problem not only of this counrty, but probably of this age and the whole of mankind will thank this Government for it.

I commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

> "This Assembly views with grave concern the continuing rise in the prices of the necessary commodities of life in the country, and is of opinion that the Government should forthwith appoint a Commission to visit the different provinces and to report within three months upon the causes of such abnormal rise and to suggest measures for effectively bringing down immediately these soaring prices of all necessities, specially of food grains, eatables and cloth."

I find there are some amendments to the resolution. I do not know whether the honourable members wish to move them.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं। प्रस्तावक महोदय ने कोई कारण स्पष्ट शब्दों में उपस्थित नहीं किए कि जिनकी वजह से चीजों का भाव इस तरह से बढ़ रहा है और न उन्होंने हमारे सामने उन उपायों को रखा है जिनसे चीजों के भाव घटाये जा सकते हैं।

Seth Govind Das (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Resolution. The Mover has neither elucidated any causes for the continuing abnormal rise in the prices of commodities, nor has he placed before us any measures which may be adopted to bring down these soaring prices.

Mr. Z. H. Lari (U.P.: Muslim): On a point of order, Sir, I have tabled some amendments to the resolution. I thought the first mover is moving his amendment. I should be given an opportunity to move my amendments.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is no point of order in this. I made a special reference to this. I said I do not know whether honourable members wish to move them. Nobody got up.

Mr. Z. H. Lari: I stood up. I thought this gentleman was going to move the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member perhaps did not know the member and that is how the mistake has arisen.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): I thought Mr. Lari would move his amendments first. So I did not rise up.

Mr. Speaker: I will give the honourable member an opportunity after this gentleman finishes speaking.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : मैं यह कह रहा था कि प्रस्तावक महोदय ने स्पष्ट रूप से न तो उन कारणों को रखा जिनसे चीजों के भाव बढ़ रहे हैं और न उन उपायों को रखा कि जिनसे हम इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ कर सकते हैं। दोनों बातें बहुत कठिन हैं, यह मैं जानता हूं, और दोनों में विशेषज्ञों की राय जरूरी है यह भी मैं मानता हूं। परन्तु चीजों के भाव बढ़ने के कारण क्या हैं उन कारणों को मैं संक्षेप से रखना चाहूंगा। मेरी दृष्टि से पहला कारण चीजों के भाव बढ़ने का यह है कि हमारी उत्पत्ति कम होती जा रही है और इस उत्पत्ति की कमी का कारण मुख्यतः हड़तालें हैं जहां हड़तालें नहीं होतीं वहां भी जो लोग काम करते हैं, मेरा मतलब मजदूरों से है, उनके

[सैठ गोविन्द दास]

मनों में स्फूर्ति का अभाव है। जितना काम उन्हें इंमानदारी के साथ करना चाहिये उतना वे नहीं करते। दूसरा कारण मेरी दृष्टि से व्यापारियों का स्वार्थ है और उसमें इस समय कुछ दूर तक हमारे किसान भी शामिल हो गये हैं। किसान जितना अनाज उत्पन्न करते हैं और व्यापारी जितना माल अपने कारखानों में बनवाते हैं न तो उनमें से किसान जल्दी से अपना अनाज और दूसरी वस्तुयें बाजार में भेजते हैं और न व्यापारी जो कि चीजों को अपने कारखानों में बनवाते हैं उन्हें भेजते हैं। इस माल का आगे भाव बढेगा, और बढेगा, और बढेगा, इस आशा पर उसे रोक रखा जाता है। तीसरा कारण मेरी दृष्टि से भाव बढ़ने का यह है कि कंट्रोल के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की नीति बिल्कुल स्पष्ट नहीं है। लोगों को सदा आशंका रहती है कि किसी भी वक्त कंट्रोल की नीति को फिर काम में लाया जा सकता है और इस आशंका के कारण जनता चीजों को खरीदने में दौड़ लगाती है। जितनी चीजों की उसे आवश्यकता होती है उससे अधिक चीजें खरीदती है। उनको वह जमा कर रखती है, इस भय के कारण कि सम्भव है कि आगे चल कर जब उसको आवश्यकता हो तब वे चीजें न मिलें, या सरकार की नीति में ही, जहां तक कि कंट्रोल का सम्बन्ध है वहां तक परिवर्तन हो जाय। चौथा कारण यह है कि वैगनों (wagons) के न मिलने से माल के आवागमन में बड़ी रुकावट होती है। मेरी दृष्टि से यदि हम विशेषज्ञों को अलग रखें तो व्यापक रूप से ये कारण ह जिनकी वजह से चीजों के भाव बढ़ रहे हैं।

तब प्रश्न यह उठता है कि भावों को नीचे लाने के लिय हमें क्या करना चाहिये। स्वभावत: सब से पहले जो चीज़ हमारे सामने आ जाती है वह यह है कि फिर से कंट्रोल किया जाय। फिर से कंट्रोल करने से वस्तुस्थिति कहां तक सुधरेगी इस सम्बन्ध में स्पष्ट रूप से कुछ कह देना बड़ी कठिन बात है। कंट्रोल का अब तक हम को जो तजुर्बा रहा है उससे यह स्पष्ट हो गया है कि कंट्रोल के कारण चोर बाजार और कंट्रोल के करण रिश्वत खोरी यह चीजें बराबर बढ़ती हैं और इसीलिये पूज्य महात्माजी ने यह कहा था कि कंट्रोल की नीति को हमें समाप्त कर देना चाहिये। अभी भी जिन चीजों पर कंट्रोल है उनकी ओर यदि हम दृष्टिपात करें तो हमें वस्तुस्थिति का थोड़ा बहुत ज्ञान और अन्दाजा हो सकता है। मैं एक ही चीज का दृष्टान्त दूंगा, पेट्रोल का। पेट्रोल पर कंट्रोल है। हम यह जानते हैं कि इस देश में लड़ाई की आशंका हैं हमको यह भी मालूम है कि देश की रक्षा के लिये सरकार का जो पेट्रोल का कंट्रोल है वह बिल्कुल उचित है। पर इतना होने पर भी शायद इस देश का कोई शहर ही नहीं, पर कस्बा और जहां पर यह पेट्रोल के पम्प लगे रहते हैं उनमें से कोई भी स्थान ऐसा नहीं होगा कि जहां चोर बाजार में ऊंचे भाव देने पर पेट्रोल न मिलता हो। तो हमने देखा कि जहां तक कि पेट्रोल का सम्बन्ध, है, जो पेट्रोल देश की रक्षा के लिए आवश्यक है उस सम्बन्ध में भी यह दशा है। मेरा तो यह मत है कि यदि इस समय की ऊंची कीमतों को देखकर हमें कंट्रोल

करना ही आवश्यक जान पड़े तो फिर वह कंट्रोल पूरा होना चाहिये। अधूरे कंट्रोल से काम नहीं चलेगा। वह केवल नगरों में हो, यह नहीं बल्कि वह गांव तक जाना चाहिये और जहां तक कि मनुष्य के जीवन के लिये जिन दो प्रधान आवश्यकताओं का सम्बन्ध है एक अनाज और दूसरा कपड़ा, उसका तो फिर पूरा पूरा कंट्रोल हो जाना चाहिये। जितना अनाज का उत्पादन होता है वह सब का सब सरकार ले ले। जितना कपड़ा बनाया जाता है वह सब का सब सरकार ले ले और इनके वितरण की व्यवस्था भी सरकार करे।

या तो इस तरीके का कंट्रोल हो। और अगर इस तरीके का कंट्रोल सम्भव नहीं है तो फिर में कहूंगा कि कंट्रोल की नीति के सम्बन्ध में कोई आशंका जनता के मन में नहीं रहने देनी चाहिए और यह स्पष्ट हो जाना चाहिए कि कोई कंट्रोल होने वाला नहीं है। तब सवाल उठता है कि यदि कंट्रोल नहीं होता तो हमें क्या करना चाहिए। इस सम्बन्ध में जैसा मैंने कहा है मैं विशेषज्ञ तो नहीं हूं लेकिन इधर उधर घूमने का मुझे बहुत अवसर मिलता है और जिन बातों को मैंने देखा है उनके आधार पर मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। हमारा जनता के साथ जो सम्पर्क स्वतन्त्रता मिलने के पहले था वह दिनों दिन कम होता जा रहा है। मैं यह मानता हूं कि हमारे देश की जनता चाहे अपढ़ हो पर जहां तक स्वाभाविक ज्ञान का सम्बन्ध है वहां हमारी जनता अज्ञानी नहीं है। साथ ही वह देशभक्त जनता है उस जनता में किसान भी आजाते हैं उस जनता में मजदूर भी आजाते हैं, उस जनता में सारे वर्ग और सारे फिरके आजाते हैं। और मैं तो यह मानता हूं कि बिना शस्त्रों के एरोप्लेनों (aeroplanes) के, तोपखाने के, रिसाले के, और पैदल के जनता के साथ सम्पर्क रखने के कारण हम स्वराज्य प्राप्त कर सके हैं। मैं इस बात को नहीं मानता कि केवल अंतर्राष्ट्रीय परिस्थिति से हमें स्वराज्य प्राप्त हुआ है। अगर पूज्य महात्माजी ने हमें इतना सजग नहीं कर दिया होता, यदि राष्ट्रीय भावनाएं हमारी जनता में भर न दी होतीं तो इस अन्तरराष्ट्रीय परिस्थिति में हमें और अधिक पीसा जाता। मैं यह मानता हूं कि हमें जो स्वराज्य प्राप्त हुआ है, वह जनता के सम्पर्क से प्राप्त हुआ है। उसी प्रकार यदि हम जनता से सच्चा सम्पर्क फिर से स्थापित कर सकें तो मेरा यह मत है कि हम वर्त्तमान् परिस्थिति को काबू में ला सकते हैं। जैसा मैंने अभी आपसे कहा है कि मजदूर के हृदय में सरकार के प्रति वह श्रद्धा और विश्वास नहीं है। हम उन्हें समझायें कि यदि हड़ताल से उनकी थोड़ी सी वेतन वृद्धि होती है तो भी एक ओर तो उनकी वेतन वृद्धि होती है, दूसरी ओर उत्पादन की कमी के कारण चीजों का भाव बढ़ता है। अगर पूरा हिसाब लगा कर देखा जाय तो स्पष्ट मालूम हो जायगा कि वेतन वृद्धि से उनको जितना लाभ नहीं होता, उससे कहीं अधिक हानि उनको उत्पादन की कमी से होती

[सैठ गोविन्द दास]

है; जो चीजों का भाव बढता है उन चीजों को अधिक दाम देकर खरीदने में। उसी प्रकार हम व्यापारियों को समझावें। व्यापारी किसी समय बड़े देशभक्त रहे हैं लेकिन मुझे यह कहते हुए बडा खेद होता है कि इस समय उनकी देशभक्ति स्वार्थ भक्ति में परिणत होगयी है। यदि हम मजदूरों को समझा सकें, यदि हम व्यापारियों को समझा सकें, यदि हम जनता को समझा सकें तो मुझे विश्वास है कि हम इस परिस्थिति पर काबू पा सकते हैं। हमारे कहने से लोग लाखों की तादाद में जेलों में गये हैं, फांसी पर चढे हैं लाठियों और गोलियों के शिकार हुये हैं। यदि हम उनको कहें कि इस समय देश के ऊपर, आपकी राष्ट्रीय सरकार के ऊपर आपत्ति है और उस आपत्ति का निवारण तभी हो सकता है जब सब लोग मिलकर उसका निवारण करें, तो मेरा यह विश्वास है कि बिना कंट्रोल लगाये भी हम इस समय की परिस्थिति को सुधार सकते हैं। मुझे कुछ बातें और कहनी थीं, लेकिन मेरे पास समय नहीं है। इसलिये में अन्त में सिर्फ इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि इस विषय पर विशेषज्ञों की राय लेकर सरकार को कुछ न कुछ बहुत जल्द करना चाहिये। मुझे इन कमीशनों पर और इन कमेटियों पर बहुत कम विश्वास है। इसका कारण यह है कि २५ वर्षों तक लगातार इस असेम्बली में रहते हुये मैंने बहुत सी कमेटियां और कमीशन पिछली विदेशी सरकार के समय में देखे हैं। मैं नहीं चाहता कि राष्ट्रीयसरकार इन कमीशनों और कमेटियों के जाल में फंसे। सरकार के पास विशेषज्ञ हैं, उन विशेषज्ञों की राय लेकर सरकार को इस सम्बन्ध में तुरन्त कुछ न कुछ करना चाहिये। मुझे इस बात का विश्वास है कि यदि इस सम्बन्ध में ठीक ढंग से कुछ किया गया तो बिना कंट्रोल के हम इस आपत्ति को दूर कर सकेंगे।

(*English translation of the above speech*).

Seth Govind Das: I was just saying that the Mover has neither clearly stated the reasons responsible for this rise in prices of commodities nor has he suggested any means by which we can tackle this situation. I realize that both the issues are very complicated. I do admit that we must elicit the opinion of experts on both these points. But I would like to narrate briefly the various causes for the rise in prices. According to my view-point there are four reasons for this. Firstly, the production is falling down and this is mainly due to the strikes. Where there are no strikes, there the workers—I mean the labourers—lack in speed. They do not put in that amount of work which they ought to do honestly. Secondly, the sordid motives of our businessmen and to some extent of our peasants also who have joined hands with them in this respect is also responsible. Neither the peasants nor the businessmen send to the market their entire produce foodgrains and other commodities, and the articles manufactured in their factories respectively. They hoard these goods in the expectation that the prices of their goods will rise further and further. Thirdly, the Government has not got a clear-cut policy regarding the imposition of control. People always apprehend that any time the controls may be re-imposed. This apprehension leads to a run amongst the masses to purchase the goods and they thus buy more than what they actually require. They hoard them as they fear lest these may not be available at later date when they are

really in need, or the Government may change its policy of control. Fourthly, lack of wagons results in transport bott e-neck. According to my reading, even if we leave out the experts, these are the obvious reasons responsible for the rising prices.

Then the question arises as to what steps should we take to bring down the rise in prices. Naturally the first thing which strikes us is that we should re-impose the control. Apparently it seems very difficult to say how far the re-imposition of control will ease the situation. As a result of the experience we have had till recently on the working of control, it has become quite evident that this system gives rise to black-market and corruption. These evils flourish under its regime. Therefore, the revered Mahatma Gandhi had observed that we should wind up the control system. Even now if we look towards the controlled articles, we can form some idea about the real state of affairs. I will quote the instance of only one article, say petrol. Petrol is controlled. All of us know that clouds of war are looming large on the horizon of the country. We also realize that the control which the Government have imposed on this commodity is fully justified in the interests of the country's defence. Notwithstanding all this, there will not perhaps be a single place either in the cities or towns in this country where these petrol pumps are installed that petrol is not available in black-market on payment of high prices. So we have seen that such a state of affairs exists even in the case of petrol which is so vital for the country's defence. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if on account of these present-day soaring prices, it is considered expedient to introduce control, then there should be a complete control. Partial control will not serve the purpose. That should not be enforced only in towns but in villages also, and so far, as the two main necessities of life are concerned *viz.*, cloth and food; these should be completely controlled. The Government should procure the entire produce of foodgrains, and also acquire the total quantity of cloth that is manufactured and itself arrange for their distribution. Either the control should be imposed in this manner or if it is not possible to introduce such a control, then I would say, that we should remove all sorts of apprehensions from the minds of the masses and tell them plainly that no control is likely to be enforced. Then the question arises as to what should we do if there is no control. I have already given suggestions in this respect though I am not an expert. But I have had many opportunities to move about and would like to say something on the basis of my experience and knowledge so gained. The contact which we have had made with the masses before the achievement of freedom is becoming lesser day by day. I admit that our masses may be illiterate, but so far as common sense is concerned, they are not ignorant. In fact they are patriotic in their outlook. These masses comprise of peasants, labourers, and all classes and communities. And above all, I feel that we have been able to achieve independence merely by keeping close contact with the masses and without the help of arms, aeroplanes, artillery and infantry corps I do not believe that we got independence as a result of international political changes. Had the respected Mahatma Gandhi not awakened us to such an extent and inspired national consciousness in the masses, we would have been further crippled and crushed by the impact of international situation? I do admit that the independence which we have achieved is due to the result of our contact with our masses. I am, therefore, of the opinion that if we are able to re-establish the same old contact with the masses in the real sense we can cope with the present difficulties. Just as I have told you the labourers do not cherish in their hearts the same faith and confidence in the Government. We should make them understand that if on the one hand by resorting to strikes, they are able to secure a small increase in their wages, on the other, loss in production results in the rise of prices of commodities. From an analysis of all the factors, it would be evident that they lose more by the fall in production than what they gain by an increase in wages, because they have to purchase their goods on the payment of high prices. Similarly

[Seth Govind Das]

we should explain to the businessmen. For some time past the businessmen had been first-rate patriots. But it deeply pains me to have to say that at present their patriotic creed has been transformed into that of selfishness. If we are able to impress upon the labourers, merchants and the masses, I am sure, we can control this situation. Lacs of people courted imprisonment in our footsteps and have gone to the gallows, became victims of lathi-charges and had bullets. If we tell them that at this juncture the country and the national Government are in the grip of severe difficulties which can only be removed if every one makes a concerted attempt in this direction. I am sure, by doing so we can remedy the present state of affairs even without resorting to control. I wanted to say something more but have no time. Therefore to sum up, I would like to say this much only that the Government should take immediate action in this respect after consulting the experts. I have very little faith in these Commissions and Committees. This is due to the reason that during the last 25 years' of my membership of this Assembly, I have had occasions to come in touch with many such committees and commissions set up during the time of the alien Government. I do not wish that the National Government should be caught in the net of such committees and commissions. The Government have got experts and after obtaining their advice, it should forthwith proceed in the matter. I am fully confident that if something is done in the right direction, we will be able to tide over the present difficulties without the imposition of control.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو: جناب مانئیہ سپیکر صاحب! میں جناب کی اجازت سے یہ amendment پیش کرنا چاہتا ہوں -

> "That in the Resolution for all the words occurring after the word 'should' the following be substituted :
>
> 'adopt immediate and suitable measures to stop the rise and bring down the prices to a reasonable level'."

اس amendment کے پیش کرنے سے میری مراد یہ ہے کہ گورنمنٹ کے ہاتھ اس موقعہ پر کسی خاص تجویز کے ساتھ نہ باندھے جائیں- یہ amendment ایک طرح سے اس کمیشن کی تقرری کے جو تین ماہ تک سارے دیش میں ایک خوردبین لیکر پھرے اور سب جگہوں کے واقعات کو اچھی طرح سے جانچ کرکے تجویز کرے کہ جو واقعات زیادتی قیمت، کساد بازاری کے دیش میں رو نما ہو رہے ہیں اُن کو کس طرح سے ٹھیک کیا جائے - اس amendment کی رو سے گورنمنٹ کو کمیشن مقرر کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے - گورنمنٹ کو اختیار ہے کہ اپنے experts کی رائے کے مطابق اور تجربہ کے بنا پر اور ان کمیٹیوں کے ذریعہ جو کہ گورنمنٹ نے پہلے ہی سے مقرر کی ہیں دیش کی اس مصیبت کو حل کرے- لیکن اگر گورنمنٹ کسی ایسے کمیشن یا کمیٹی کو مقرر کرنا ضروری سمجھے تو بھی اس amendment کے منظور ہونیسے گورنمنٹ کو ایسا کرنے کا اختیار ہوگا غرضیکہ گورنمنٹ کو یہ حق حاصل ہوگا کہ وہ کمیشن مقرر کرے یا نہ کرے - ان الفاظ کے substitute کرنے سے کمیشن کی تقرری include بھی ہو سکتی ہے اور exclude بھی ہو سکتی ہے - اور گورنمنٹ اس کمیشن کی تقرری کے بغیر ہی اس معاملہ کو طے کر سکتی ہے -

جناب والا ! یہ جو آج کے دن بڑی سخت سمسیہ دیش میں ہے - اُس کے متعلق mover نے اس ہاؤس کی توجہ دلائی ہے - اُن سب باتوں کو میں دہرانا نہیں چاہتا ہوں میں جانتا ہوں کہ دیش کے اندر بہت سی چیزوں کی جتنی ضرورت ہے اُس سے وہ کم ہیں لیکن میں یہ ماننے کے لئے تیار نہیں ہوں کہ یہ soaring prices اس کمی کی وجہ سے وجود میں آئی ہیں - سوال یہ ہے کہ کیا دیش میں ان چیزوں کی کوئی خاص کمی واقع ہوئی ہو جس کی وجہ سے prices اتنے بڑھ گئے ہیں - میں احمد آباد کے متعلق یہ عرض کرونگا کہ وہاں پر بہت سا کپڑا پڑا ہوا ہے - اور وہاں کے کارخاندار اس بات کے بے حد خواہشمند ہیں کہ دیش کے اندر ان کا کپڑا چلا جائے - لیکن وہ کپڑا دیش کے اندر نہیں پہنچتا ہے - ابھی کچھ دن ہوئے میں نے دہلی کے جیل اور ایسٹ پنجاب کے جیلوں کو دیکھا — اور اگر کوئی ممبر صاحب دوزخ کا نمونہ دیکھنا چاہیں تو وہ ان جیلوں کو دیکھ لیں کہ وہاں پر قیدی ننگے ہیں اور انکی لنگوٹیاں بھی پھٹ گئی ہیں - اور وہ ویسے ہی وہاں پر پھرتے ہیں - یہ اس وجہ سے نہیں کہ گورنمنٹ اُنکے کپڑے کے لئے روپیہ خرچ نہیں کرنا چاہتی ہے اور نہ ہی اسکی یہ وجہ ہے کہ جیل کے افسران انکو ننگا رکھنا چاہتے ہیں - یہ صرف اس وجہ سے ہے کہ transport کی سہولیتیں نہیں ہیں - گورنمنٹ نے اور جیل department نے یہ حکم دے دیا ہے کہ انکے لئے کپڑا خریدا جائے - لیکن کپڑا یہاں آ ہی نہیں سکتا ہے - ایک طرف احمد آباد کے کارخانہ دار چاہتے ہیں کہ انکا کپڑا دیش میں چلا جائے اور دوسری طرف لوگ ننگے پھرتے ہیں - اسلئے میں نہایت ادب سے عرض کرتا ہوں کہ ان soaring prices کی وجہ یہ نہیں ہے کہ production میں کمی ہے - بلکہ اس حالت کے وجوہات کمی کے علاوہ اور بھی ہیں -

شاید میرے ساتھ اس اسمبلی کے ممبر صاحبان اتفاق نہیں کرینگے مگر میں یہ عرض کرونگا کہ grain-production کے متعلق جو کچھ figures ہمکو گورنمنٹ دیتی ہے وہ درست نہیں ہیں - اس دیش کے اندر اسکے production کی کمی نہیں ہے بلکہ کافی production ہوتی ہے - اور وہ production ہمارے لئے کافی ہے - دیکھنا یہ ہے کہ یہ جو تکلیف ہمارے دیش میں آئے دن پیش آ رہی ہے اسکے کیا وجوہات ہیں ہر ایک آدمی یہی assume کرتا ہے - کہ یہاں پر اناج کی کمی ہے - اسلئے prices بڑھ جاتے ہیں - اصلیت یہ ہے کہ اناج پیدا کرنے والونکو واجب قیمت دینے و consumer کو مناسب قیمت پر اناج ملنے کے لئے قیمتوں کو reasonable level پر لانا نہایت ضروری ہے - جن حالات کی بنا پر یہ prices اتنے بڑھ جاتے ہیں اُن کے متعلق میں ایک مثال پیش کرونگا اس برس ضلع حصار میں 2½ کروڑ من چنا پیدا ہوا اور یہ 2½ کروڑ من چنا غالباً سارے ہندوستان کے لئے کافی تھا حصار میں اسکی قیمت پانچ یا ساڑھے پانچ روپیہ فی من کاشتکار کو ملی

لیکن بنگال اور مدراس میں بیس یا بائیس روپیہ قیمت تھی - حالانکہ حصار میں اتنا چنا پیدا ہوا تھا لیکن پھر بھی دیش میں اسی کی کمی پوری نہ ہو سکی - اسکی وجہ یہ ہے کہ اسکو دوسرے علاقوں میں لے جانے کے لئے ٹھیک انتظام نہیں تھا - اس ٹھیک انتظام اور پکی پالیسی نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے دیش میں یہ تکلیف ہوتی ہے - ایک طرف producers اپنی چیز کو دیگر علاقوں میں نہیں بھیج سکتے اور نہ ٹھیک قیمت وصول کر سکتے ہیں اور دوسری طرف ضرورت والوں کو مناسب قیمت پر چیزیں میسر نہیں ہوتی ہیں - ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ حکومت نے جو کمیٹیاں اب سے پہلے اس بارے میں بنائی ہیں اسکے سفارشوں پر اور جو پالیسی مقرر کی گئی ہے - اسپر پکی طرح سے عمل پیرا ہو کر اس کام کو ٹھیک کر دیا جائے - روزمرہ بدلتے ہوئی پالیسی ہماری بربادی و نقصان کا باعث ہے -

میں نے کچھ دن ہوئے فیروز پور کے علاقہ میں جو کچھ حالت لوگوں کی دیکھی و سنی وہ نہایت افسوسناک ہے آپ لوگوں نے اخباروں میں بھی پڑھا ہوگا - کہ وہاں پر ایک نوجوان نے کھانا نہ ملنے کی وجہ سے خود کشی کرلی - میں ایک ایسے علاقہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہوں جہاں پر اناج کا قحط عموماً رہتا ہے اور وہ علاقہ قحطزدہ رہتا ہے - لیکن وہاں پر بھی آج کے دن وہاں پر لوگوں کی مصیبتیں بمقابلہ پہلے کے کئی درجہ بڑھ گئی ہیں — اور انکی حالت نہایت نا گفتہ بہ ہے اسلئے میں اس کمیشن کے مقرر ہونے کے حق میں نہیں ہوں جو کہ تین مہینے دیش کا دورہ کرکے پھر تجاویز پیش کر دے اور تب اس مصیبت سے بچنے کا علاج سوچا جائے اور اس پر عمل کیا جاوے ورنہ ایسی حالت ہوگی جیسا کسی نے کہا ہے

تا تریاق از ایراق آوردہ شود
مار گزیدہ مردہ بود

جن تین مہینوں میں یہ کمیشن دورہ کریگا اسمیں خرچہ بھی بہت آئیگا اور اتنی دیر لوگوں کو بے حد تکالیف کا سامنا کرنا پڑیگا — اور یہ نہیں معلوم کہ ان تین ماہ میں کیا کچھ ہوگا - گورنمنٹ اس معاملہ سے بے خبر نہیں ہے - انکو ہر ایک بات کا پورا پتہ ہے - ہر ایک پراونس میں ایک ایک منسٹر food اس کام پر ہے اور یہاں پر ہمارے گورنمنٹ میں شری جیرام داس دولترام اسکو deal کرتے ہیں اور ہم ہر روز radio پر سنتے ہیں کہ وہ کانفرنسیں اور کمیٹیاں اسبارے میں بلاتے رہتے ہیں - تو اس سے بھی یہ پتہ چلتا ہے کہ گورنمنٹ کو اسبارے میں سب کچھ معلوم ہے - اسلئے اس معاملہ میں کسی کمیشن کی ضرورت نہیں ہے وجوہات موجودہ تکالیف سبکو معلوم ہیں سیدھی بات تو یہ ہے اور وہ یہ ہے کہ گورنمنٹ کی جو بھی پالیسی ہو اس پر زور سے و مضبوطی سے عمل کرنے کی ضرورت ہے - یا تو گورنمنٹ پورا کنٹرول

پیداوار اور تقسیم پر حاصل کرے اور اس پالیسی پر عمل کرے یا قیمتوں کو ایک دفعہ مقرر کردے وہ prices جو کہ ضرورت سے زیادہ بڑھ گئے ہوں انکو ایک reasonable level پر لائے مثلاً غلہ کپڑا وغیرہ — ان کی قیمتوں کو نہ ہی زیادہ high ہونا چاہیے اور نہ ہی زیادہ low اسلئے reasonable قیمتوں کو مقرر کر دیا جائے تاکہ ان اشیا کو پیدا کرنے کا incentive کمزور نہ ہونے پائے حکومت کو چاہیے کہ وہ ان چیزوں کو خود خریدے اور دیش کے اندر مختلف جگہوں پر دوکان کھولدے اور لوگوں کو مقررہ قیمت پر یہ چیزیں مہیا کردے - دیش میں اگر producers hoarding اور profiteering کرتے ہیں تو اسکی وجہ کنٹرول ہے اسلئے یا تو پورا control کیا جاوے ورنہ کنٹرول کے سوال کو چھوڑ دینا ہی بہتر ہے - جس چیز کی اصلی ضرورت ہے وہ یہ ہے کہ گورنمنٹ کو چاہیے کہ وہ ایک مستقل پالیسی اختیار کرکے اسپر پوری طرح سے مضبوطی سے عمل کرے اگر گورنمنٹ partial control کریگی تو اس سے یہ soaring prices کنٹرول نہیں ہو سکتے ہیں - اسلئے میں نہایت ادب سے عرض کرونگا کہ ضرورت اس وقت مستقل مزاجی سے عمل کی ہے اس بارے میں مزید تحقیقات کی ضرورت نہیں ہے اور نہ ہی کسی کمیشن کے مقرر کرنے کی ضرورت ہے - بلکہ ضرورت اس بات کی ہے کہ ایک پکی پالیسی اختیار کی جائے اور اسپر عمل درآمد کیا جائے- اور ان کمیٹیوں سے جو کہ گورنمنٹ نے پہلے سے ہی بنائی ہے مدد لینی چاہیے — یہ جو تین مہینے کا عرصہ ہے یہ نہایت غیر مناسب ہے اور اس عرصہ میں حالات کا پتہ نہیں کہ کیسے رہینگے — اسوقت فوری action کی ضرورت ہے — اسلئے میرے خیال میں اس کمیشن کو مقرر کرنا نقصان دہ ہی ہوگا - فائدہ مند نہیں ہو سکتا ۔ اسلئے حکومت کو چاہیے کہ وہ ایک پالیسی مقرر کرکے اسپر زور کے ساتھ عمل کرے اور hesitation vacillation, کے پالیسی کو ترک کر دے

(*English translation of the above speech*).

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:

> "That in the Resolution for all the words occurring after the word 'should' the following be substituted:
>
> 'adopt immediate and suitable measures to stop the rise and bring down the prices to a reasonable level'."

My object in moving this amendment is that the hands of the Government should not be tied down to any specific proposal at the moment. This amendment aims to oppose the appointment of a Commission which is to go round the whole country and conduct a survey with a microscope and siftingly enquire into the conditions prevailing in the different parts and suggest measures to be adopted for counteracting the present state of affairs arising out of the soaring prices and scarcity of essential commodities. According to this amendment, there is hardly any necessity for the Government to appoint the Commission. The Government is fully competent to relieve the country of the

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

throes of bad times through which it is passing by invoking the assistance of its own experts, the committees it has already constituted and above all by its experience. But if it is considered expedient to appoint such a Commission or Committee, it will have the right to do so even after this amendment is accepted. In any case it would rest with the Government either to appoint the Commission or not. By substitution of these words the appointment of the Commission can be included as well as excluded, and Government can tackle this problem without it. Sir, the Mover has drawn attention of the House towards this important problem which is at present facing the country. I do not want to repeat all these things. I know that the production of many articles in the country is far less than the demand. But I am not prepared to admit that these soaring prices are due to shortage. The crux of the problem is whether there has been an appreciable fall in the production of these commodities in the country which has resulted in high prices. I will mention the case of Ahmedabad where huge stock of cloth is lying and the mill-owners are very much anxious that this should be sent out to all parts of the country, but it does not reach the proper quarters. Only recently I happened to visit the jails in the East Punjab and Delhi. If any honourable member wants to see a picture of a veritable hell, he should visit these jails. The prisoners are living in a naked state and roam about in tattered loin cloths. This is not due to the reason that Government does not want to spend money for providing them with cloth nor that the Officers of the Jail like to keep them in a naked state. It is due only to lack of transport facilities. The Government and the Jail Department have issued orders that cloth should be purchased for them. But the cloth cannot be moved to the place. On the one side, the Ahmedabad mill-owners want that their cloth should be sent throughout the country and on the other people are moving about in a naked state. Therefore, I would respectfully submit that the reasons for these soaring prices cannot be attributed to shortage in production only but there are other factors apart from this. Perhaps many members of this House will not agree with me, but I would submit that the figures regarding production of foodgrains which the Government usually supplies are not correct. There is no fall in production of grains in this country but on the contrary there is adequate production, which can cope with our requirements. We have to find out what are the causes which are responsible for the day-to-day troubles arising in this country? Everybody assumes that there is a shortage of foodgrains here and for this reason only prices rise. It is really very essential that the prices of foodgrains are brought to a reasonable level in order to ensure proper return to the peasants and their supply to the consumers at a fair price. I will just quote an example which will illustrate the causes leading to the steep rise in the prices. During this year, 2½ crores of maunds of grams were produced in the Hissar district, and this quantity is probably quite sufficient for the entire country. The producer in this place was paid a price at Rs. 5 or 5/8/- per maund. But the price in the Provinces of Bengal and Madras ranged between Rs. 20, and 22 Although such a huge quantity of gram was produced in Hissar, yet it could not meet the deficit of this commodity in the country. This is due to the reason that there are no proper arrangements for its transport to other parts of the country. For lack of proper arrangements and firm policy the country has to face such difficulties. On the one hand the producers cannot supply their goods to other parts of the country, and secure fair prices and on the other those who are in need cannot get them on reasonable prices. It is high time that the Government takes steps to remedy this state of affairs by firmly acting upon the recommendations of the Committees already set up by it and pursuing with determination the policy which had been laid down. Everybody change in our policy is harmful and likely to lead us to ruination.

I will just narrate to you the pitiable condition of the people living in the Ferozepur District, which I happened to notice recently. You might have read in the newspapers also that a youngman who could not get food to eat committed suicide. I come from a place which is generally short of foodgrains and is generally famine-striken, but the people there are experiencing far more difficulties at the present time than they used to do in the past. Their condition is deplorable. Therefore I do not favour the appointment of this Commission which may submit its proposals after touring the country for three months, and then only we will think of the remedy. Otherwise the position would be as described—

"Ta taryak as Iraq auwurda shawad, mar guzeeda murda bood".

which means that by the time the antidote is brought from Iraq, the snake-bitten person might die. Three month's tour to be undertaken by the Commission will involve heavy expenditure and during this period people will have to face innumerable hardships. Moreover, it is not known what might happen during these three months. The Government is not ignorant about this matter and is in full touch with the trend of events. Every Province has got a Food Minister. Here in our Government, the Honourable Shri Jairamdas Daulatram deals with matters connected with food. Everyday we listen on the Radio that he is convening conferences and setting up committees. From this it follows, that the Government is fully aware to the situation and there is hardly any necessity for appointing a Commission. Everybody is aware of the causes for the present-day difficulties. To be frank, I would say that it is quite imperative that the Government should vigorously and firmly pursue its policy—whatever it may be. Either the Government should impose complete control over the production and distribution and act upon such a policy or fix the prices once for all and bring to a reasonable level those prices which have risen abnormally, such as for food and cloth. The prices for these commodities should neither be very high nor low. Therefore, reasonable prices should be fixed so that the incentive to produce may not be weakened. The Government should themselves procure the commodities and open shops in different parts of the country and supply them to the public at fixed prices. If the producers in this country indulge in hoarding and profiteering, this is on account of the existence of control. Therefore, either complete control should be enforced or it would be better to abandon the idea of control altogether. What is actually required is that the Government should adopt a firm policy and enforce it strictly and resolutely. If the Government maintains a partial control, then these soaring prices cannot be controlled. Therefore, I would very respectfully submit that a contingency has arisen at present when it should act firmly and resolutely. There is neither any necessity for instituting a further enquiry into this matter nor for the appointment of a Commission. All that is needed is to formulate a definite policy and to act upon it. We should elicit the help of those Committees which the Government has already set up. This period of 3 months is quite disproportionate and it is not known what shape the events might take during this time. Immediate action is called for at the moment. Therefore, in my opinion the appointment of the Commission will prove harmful rather than useful. Thus I would urge the Government to lay down a specific policy and firmly adhere to it. It should abandon the policy of hesitation and vacillation.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

> "That for all the words occurring after the word 'should' the following be substituted:
>
> 'adopt immediate and suitable measures to stop the rise and bring down the prices to a reasonable level'."

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Is it open to me to accept that amendment now?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Because, as the mover of the amendment explained......

Mr. Speaker: Let there be an opportunity to other members to express their views. The honourable member may then be in a better position to express his acceptance or rejection.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): May I make one suggestion? The substance of Resolution No. 3 is practically the same. I would submit that our friends may move their amendments but this resolution may also be moved and both the resolutions may be taken together for purposes of discussion.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow the amendments to be moved at this stage. The third resolution of course seems to be almost identical except that it appears to be more restrictive in its terms and I am also doubtful whether that resolution will not be barred by this resolution being discussed and passed.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Whereas Resolution No. 2 is comprehensive, Resolution No. 3 addresses itself to particular sections of the community which are poor and the Mover wants that some concessions should be shown to them. I would therefore submit that he may also be allowed to move his resolution, so that there may be a general discussion on both the resolutions and the Government may reply as to what they are proposing to do.

Mr. Speaker: I doubt whether it can come in as an amendment. An amendment in this case will be that for the original Resolution, this Resolution is substituted.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Resolution No. 3 may be moved as an independent Resolution.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider the matter during the Lunch recess. To me it appears a difficult thing to allow both of them simultaneously, though the one is covered by the other. I see no particular point in the third resolution being moved. The gentleman who has tabled the resolution will have ample opportunity of speaking on this. The importance would be only on the question of voting.

Mr. Z. H. Lari: Sir, I move:

"That in the Resolution,—

(i) the words 'to visit the different provinces and' be omitted;

(ii) for the words 'three months', the words 'forty-five days' be substituted; and

(iii) the words 'and that the Governments concerned should accept the report and implement it without any delay', be added at the end."

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House relates to a matter which is very grave: not only is it grave but it requires immediate solution. The mover has given figures to show the difference in prices between August 1939 and those prevailing at present. I would prefer to concentrate the attention of the House on the increase that has taken place during the last 12 months and specially after the recent policy announced in December 1947.

The index figures for April 1947 for food articles stood at 279, while at present after 12 months it is 391. The figure for all commodities in April 1947 was 289 and now it is 389. What is more glaring is that wheat in December 1947 was available at Rs. 13 per maund in U.P. and now it can be had only at prices ranging between Rs. 24 and 30. According to the recent pronouncement of the Honourable the Premier of the United Provinces price of cloth has increased by 400 per cent. during the last six months. Now the question is why is it that during the last six months the prices have risen so high. With all my respect and admiration for the Government here and in the provinces I am constrained to say that the rise in prices is primarily due to the action or inaction of the Governments in power both in the Centre and in the provinces and with your permission I would elucidate this point.

Has there been any shortage of Commodities? The reply can only be in the negative. Only the other day Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant said: "Our trouble today is not due to any failure of crops or fall in production. The last Kharif was not below the average and the Rabi, if anything, was better." As regards cloth production, according to the recent statement of the Honourable Minister for Industries and Supply, it has increased. In 1947 it was 3,850 million yards and this year during the first six months it was 2,180 million yards. The sugar acreage has increased by about 10 per cent. It follows that something else is responsible for this increase in prices and my humble submission is that the first thing which laid the basis of the rise in prices were the steps taken by the Government primarily the governments of the United Provinces and Bihar with the concurrence of the Central Government. I mean the socalled Sugar Deal of 1947. What was the position on the 7th December when the decontrol was announced? The price of sugar on that date stood at Rs. 21/5 per maund. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Food Minister, while speaking in the Assembly said:

> "It is now for the Government to release the sugar and purchase at whatever price it likes and it proposes to take the bulk of the purchase. They (meaning the mill-owners) have come forward with a proposal to keep down the prices of sugar and there has been an arrangement that the prices cannot be allowed to go beyond what they would have been if control had continued."

What was the result. By one stroke of the pen a few days later the price of Rs. 21 and some annas was raised to Rs. 35 and some annas. That paved the way for the increase in prices. *Amrita Basar Patrika* was really correct when it said that sugar deal had sabotaged the policy of decontrol and now even the Prime Minister of U.P. had to admit that these increases had not only whittled down the area of wheat but has made the cultivator withhold the crop in his own possession. Therefore I say that the beginning in the rise was made by the Governments concerned, primarily the governments of the United Provinces and Bihar and I regret to say the Central Government stepped in to share in the profits realised thereby showed the way, and set the tone. They sowed the seed and now we have to reap the crop.

The second thing followed decontrol of cloth in January. A measure was introduced in this House by the Honourable Minister for Industries and Supply and on that occasion he was pleased to say:

> "As you know our part of the scheme is that in future every piece of cloth should bear the ex-mill price and also the retail price stamped, so that in future we may be able to know at any time whether................."

Then further on he said: "I shall take such steps as will make it impossible for the mills to function." That was the assurance given on the floor of this House. Immediately after that there was, what should I say profiteering by Government? They said to the millowners "Well you can sell your cloth 35% over and above the stamped price, provided you give all this to me." The result was that cloth which was selling at 100% more than the stamped price by the end of March 1948, shot up in price and according to the Bulletin of the Ministry of Industries and Supply the position was that in U.P. superfine cloth was selling at 100 to 300 per cent. above the marked prices, fine between 80 to 150 per cent. and coarse between 50 to 100 per cent. above the stamped price. That was the position according to the bulletin issued by the Government at the end of March 1948. And what does the Government do? Instead of taking measures against the millowners, the Government on the 24th April 1948 even abolished the system of stamping prices. What was the result? When the Government knew, and the public knew, by the end of March 1948 that the prices of cloth, in spite of stamping, had gone so high,

[Mr Z. H. Lari]

was it not then necessary to take measures to control rather than remove that very small check which indicated to the public—and to the Government also—what was the rise in prices? This was the second sin of commission made by the Central Government. It only further strengthens the belief that so long as you can fill the pockets of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments, you can proceed on with the rise in prices with impunity.

What are additional reasons for further soaring of prices? You will find that it is primarily due to hoarding or smuggling. In his statement the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply said that the Premier of East Punjab had told him that out of 60,000 bales, sent to East Punjab only 10,000 bales had been made available to the public. And the figure he gave today of the seizure of cloth in the process of smuggling was that its price came to Rs. 1 lakh. Now realize what is the proportion between the actual seizure and the actual smuggling: it means ineffective steps adopted to prevent smuggling. And who is responsible, if not the Government and the Government alone?

Only the other day, on 31st July, the Honourable Pandit Pant, Premier of U.P. said that it is held that the producer is holding his crop. He does not say "I also believe it". But everybody knows it. Now, may I know whether any searches were made for these foodgrains? Has anybody been prosecuted for this? I know of my own Province where hundreds of houses were searched for a broken spear but not to recover the foodgrain which is the life-breath for the teeming millions who are dying for want of foodstuffs.

Inflation is another factor responsible for the rise in prices. Have any steps been taken by the Government to meet this evil which covers everything else? No policy can succeed unless attempts are made either to decrease or to absolutely remove the excess purchasing power in the country. The other day I read in the press that the Government is considering the matter and I saw a cartoon in Shankar's magazine that they have now discovered that there is something like inflation. Somebody thought that it was a big animal; some thought it a dream; but now Government has realized it. But then that realization remains in the minds of the Honourable Members and there is no tangible evidence of any attempt to meet the evil.

Take the cloth policy which has been announced: that appeal which has always failed with the traders is to be found throughout that statement. The question was how to reduce the price immediately. The scheme says that for four months the cloth which is in the possession of wholesalers and retailers is enough. But the question was how to make that cloth available at reasonable price. It says "We will rely on the human sentiments of the traders". What a hope and what a lucid interval at that time to say that even after the experience of twelve months you can expect that the cloth which was sufficient for four months will be made available. Anybody going now to the shops will find that the cloth shops are empty. Even in execution of elementary order, I read in the press, there has been laxity. Bombay received the order to freeze cloth stocks with mills earlier than Calcutta, to Nagpur it came on 3rd August and godowns were sealed in Calcutta some days later. What is the amount of cloth that must have gone out and entered the black-market to suck the people whose dire need is cloth. On the whole the result comes to this that the rising prices are due in the first place to profiteering tendencies of the Government; in the second place indifference to check smuggling and detect hoarding; and thirdly failure to formulate any policy to check inflation. About the same time, namely, November 1947, Russia also adopted the same policy— they de-rationed commodities.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member may continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, **Mr.** *Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.*

Mr. Z. H. Lari: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just when the House rose for Lunch, I was going to refer to the relative position in Russia following de-rationing there. Before I take this up, I would like to make a few submissions pertaining matters which have already been referred to.

I mentioned that there has been hoarding on a large scale. I know of my own Province where at the main market place of Hapur the arrivals are now 500 maunds per day while in normal times they used to be between 5,000 and 10,000 maunds per day. It is practically admitted by the report of the Director of Economics and Statistics for June where he says at page 8: "...the arrivals are comparatively low in U.P. and East Punjab...". Recently, the Ministry there announced what they called a "New Food Policy". Of course there was that wordy warning to hoarders, but I have yet to find any step taken to translate that warning into reality.

There is another factor which has contributed to the rise in prices, and which has already been mentioned, namely the transport difficulties. It is not that the Government is not aware of it. In the Bulletin which I have referred to, it is mentioned definitely in the "Remarks" column that so far as U.P. is concerned "Transport facilities from outside production centres are very poor". The result is that not only are there transport difficulties, but corruption has increased. I can say from sources very close to me that where the freight is Rs. 60 you have to pay Rs. 200 per wagon before you can get a wagon. Now, whence is this money to come? The trader has to recompense himself for this payment and the result is again an addition to the increment.

Now, about the same time in 1947 Russia de-rationed. But what did she do? That country made a distinction between de-rationing on the one hand and price fixation on the other. Coupled with that they also raised the value of the money. The result has been that during the last six months they have reduced the general prices twice and the country and the people there have been able to save in terms of money 57 million roubles. You can appreciate the value of it when you see that the entire taxes in Russia—income-tax as well as agricultural tax—comes to 81 million roubles. That is to say, within six months the population there, by virtue of fixation of price had saved so much amount which exceeds the annual income of the Government there. Why? It may be that Stalin the originator of that policy is still there while here the Father of the Nation, under pressure of whose opinion de-rationing and de-control came in, perhaps is not here. May be that, but the fundamental thing is that the Government instead of controlling the prices left it to the industrialists to fix prices.

Only recently when the Honourable Minister for Supply made a statement in regard to the cloth policy, he said that the Tariff Board had made certain recommendations about prices and that Government is going to fix prices. But the significant words are "In fixing prices we shall take the recommendations of the Board into view to a certain extent". I am surprised at this. Why this rider? The Tariff Board devoted sufficient time to determine the proper prices and when the Report came the Government spokesman said, "I will take into consideration this Report to a certain extent".

Now the result of all these factors. taken as a whole, has been that the prices have gone up from month to month, from week to week and even from day to day. When a friend of mine said that the Commission cannot go about moving for months, he said a sensible thing. There is no necessity for the Commission to go about in different Provinces. The remedy is known; the disease

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is there. The only question is to fix the policy and to apply it with determination.

Now, what is the way out? The Government has got so many engagements, it has got so many preoccupations—Kashmir and Hyderabad are engaging their attention. Then what is the remedy? After all the population cannot wait for long. The only remedy is: Appoint a Food Commission with full powers—not that they should make recommendations which will again go to the Secretariat and remain on the files for months and months, possibly some of them may be accepted and some rejected and then even enforcement may take time. Therefore the Mover was perfectly right when he said that there should be a Commission. But remedy must come as early as possible. There is no question of unearthing such reasons as are not known; this matter has been before the country and the world for months. I feel that if a Commission fully empowered to enquire into the causes responsible for the rise in prices, with full powers to recommend what should be the policy, is appointed and that Commission concentrates itself on that problem and makes recommendations and the Government is prepared to accept those recommendations, I think a way out of the present *impasse* may be found. China is a standing reminder.

There is a limit to everything! Human patience has also got limits. The sacrifices made by the Government in the cause of Independence created a fund of sympathy for them, but I think they have overdrawn over it. But for the problems of Hyderabad and Kashmir, there would have been at least sentimental uprising against the Government. (*An Honourable Member*: "*Question*"). Let the Government wake up, give up their lethargy. Let them rise and strike. Strike at what? Strike at the profiteering tendency in the Governments concerned; Strike at the hoarders, at all anti-social elements and last but not the least strike at the corrupt and the corruptor. That is the way to save the country. Otherwise we may go the same way as China is going. With these words I move the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in the Resolution,—

(i) the words 'to visit the different provinces and' be omitted;

(ii) for the words 'three months', the words 'forty-five days' be substituted; and

(iii) the words 'and that the Governments concerned should accept the report and implement it without any delay', be added at the end."

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree entirely with all the previous speakers regarding the seriousness of the situation. The rise in prices is certainly unprecedented; the hardship inflicted on the masses is certainly undeniable; and no one will deny that prompt measures are required. Therefore, the real issues before the House are: What are the causes of this inflationary rise of prices and what are the measures which the Government of India can adopt?

Before I deal with these two issues I would like to utter a word of warning. Economic events are powerfully influenced by human factors. If in our enthusiasm to find remedies we exaggerate the situation, we ourselves become a cause of its further deterioration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Quite right.

Shri K. Santhanam: Sir, as I have said the situation is serious, but I would like to point out that there is nothing very desperate, there is nothing very tragic, about it. The rise in prices of our country is, taking 1939 as 100—food articles range between 350 and 400: industrial raw materials from 300 and 450: semi-manufactures 250 to 350 and manufactured articles about 350—400.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Cereals have gone up to 451.

Shri K. Santhanam: My figures are from the report of the Economic Adviser's Office dated the 10th July 1948.

So I think it is a fairly recent one.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Mine is dated the 12th June, 1948.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram (Minister for Food): Cereals may be 451. But food articles include not only cereals but other food articles like salt, tea and many other things.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But it was only 357 in May 1948 according to the Reserve Bank of India. One can go on quoting these things.

Shri K. Santhanam: In the world commodity survey which is given in *Eastern Economist* of August 6, the movement of prices throughout the world is described. For wheat it is 305 pre-war price; for fats and oils it is 400; for sugar it is 375; for cotton it is 362 to 430 and so on. Therefore, the inflationary rise in our country is not very much greater than the average rise in the whole world. I do not say that as a matter of consolation. I only point out that we need not be very tragic; we need not indulge in undue lamentations.

Then, Sir, what are the factors contributing to this rise? I divide them into three classes. There are factors of production; factors of distribution and thirdly monetary factors, which are contributing to this inflation. Of course, greater stress is laid on the factors of production. There is no doubt that the ultimate remedy is increased production, but unfortunately many of the factors of production are intractable. You can solve them only slowly. Time is required. For instance, there is a lot of talk about capital equipment, but we are not able to produce capital equipment and those who produce them have got too many clients and we have to wait for our turn. So it is no use, for immediate effect, to count on large-scale shipments of capital goods from other countries.

But there are some factors which we ought to effect. Something has been said about labour. I do feel that labour should be given a fair deal in the coming negotiations about profit sharing; at the same time, a great nation-wide attempt should be made to impress upon labour how they should, in the interests of the masses, in the interests of the vast millions of agriculturists, step up production in all manner of ways. This is one of the factors which is capable of immediate improvement.

Of course, there is the question of efficiency. The labour efficiency has gone down a great deal. It was said that in the Railway Workshops, it had gone down by as much as 50 per cent. I therefore think that no efforts should be spared to increase this efficiency. It is only by improvement of labour attendance and labour efficiency that we can hope to increase production to any appreciable extent in the near future.

Sir, the factor of distribution has not been properly attended to. I think the greatest contributor to this rise is the breakdown in distribution. Of course, nowadays it is the fashion to say one day that by control we can do everything and another day that by de-control we can do everything. I think both these attitudes are not correct, because control means organisation of distribution throughout the country. What a big country we have, we forget. With five hundred thousand villages, we have to organise distribution, according to licence according to official orders. We have to re-order the entire distribution machinery if we want control. If it is de-control, it is organised on the basis of profit-making throughout the country. Therefore, any attempt to disrupt distribution machinery is likely to lead to disastrous consequences.

[Shri K. Santhanam]

Whether it is control or de-control, it is the re-adjustment of distribution machinery which takes many months and probably some years. It is because we are playing with one policy after another that all this confusion has arisen. If the Government thought that we must have control and stuck to it, we would not have been in this position. If after taking the measure of de-control they had decided upon it and had left all the free channels open and stuck to de-control, we would not be in this position. It is because of the doubt, it is because of the confusion in the minds of the Governments that we are largely in this position. Therefore, whether one likes control or de-control, it is not a matter of importance. What I want to impress upon the Government is that if they decide upon the policy of control, let them, here and now declare that they are going to stick to it, whether it is three years, four years or five years, until they have solved all the problems of corruption and all the other administrative problems and put the machinery in order. If people think that after imposing control now, Dr. Syama Prasad is going to reverse it within the next six months I think that whatever he might do, all his efforts would be in vain. Therefore, let us, as a nation, as a body, pull our weight together and then we are likely to succeed. Either way we are likely to succeed. If we stick neither to control nor to de-control, we will be falling between two stools and we will be nowhere.

Thirdly, Sir, there are the monetary factors. I think this also has not been given proper attention and this is one of those factors which can be immediately tackled by the Government. One thing the Finance Minister has done and to which we must all pay tribute is that he has sat tight and has not allowed any increase in the note issue. He has put a ceiling on the rise in monetary prices and has decided that there should be no more increase in the note issue. But unfortunately, owing to the division of the country, much of the Indian currency which was circulating in Pakistan has come to us and therefore it has caused a further *de facto* increase so far as India is concerned. I suggest that the Finance Minister should take immediate steps to withdraw this amount of money, that is to say, if one-sixth of India has gone out, then at least one-sixth of the note circulation should be withdrawn and he should take all the measures that are possible. One measure which I think is possible and immediately practicable is that he should insist on compulsory saving. Of course, voluntary saving is much superior. He has given time to the people to come forward with voluntary savings; but owing to many reasons, owing to some lack of confidence, owing to general public distrust, people want to cling to the cash that they have got in their hands and if scores of families hoard up each fifty rupees, you know what a big amount it comes to. Therefore, immediately Government should undertake measures of compulsory saving. Now higher wages for labour and higher salaries for the poor distressed middle classes are right, but by doing justice to them, we are only increasing the inflationary factors. They do not save the money; they do not put it in the bank and they are willing to pay higher prices. Therefore at the risk of some unpopularity, some criticism, the Government should not offer bonuses and increased dearness allowances especially for those above a certain minimum for the next three or 5 years, because depression is coming very soon. At that time we will require a lot of purchasing power to meet that depression. Therefore it is time to force people, if necessary, to save and then be ready to meet the depression when it comes. I think these are the measures which the Government should adopt. I do not see any purpose in a Commission. We have had the Food-grains Enquiry Committee with all the reports; we have had a series of conferences with Ministers of Industries. To spend any more time on Commissions will be a sheer waste. Finally, it is the Government who will have to decide. They know they have all the information at their disposal, so that in any policy they adopt they will have to meet with difficulties, with all kinds of criticism. They will have to decide, take a final decision and stick to it. Therefore, no more time should be wasted; they should decide and they should stick to their decision for the next three or five years and take all the consequences. Even if they make mistakes, it is better they show grit and determination rather than become wavering and change their policy every two or three months.

Begum Aizaz Rasul (U.P.: Muslim): The motion before the House deals with a subject which has been engaging the attention of the people of this country for a long time and I am glad that an opportunity has been afforded by the moving of such a resolution on the floor of this House in order that this matter may be discussed. I need not go into details because there is no one here who does not realize the seriousness of the position. The speeches that have been made on the subject today have amply brought before this House the condition of affairs. Mr. Lari has very ably put before the House the reasons that have gone to contribute towards the abnormal rise of prices. Therefore, it is no use wasting time in lamentations or in telling the members of this House that the situation is bad. The only thing to do is to revise ways and means to improve the conditions and to relieve the millions of people of this country from the great hardships that they are experiencing, especially for the last one year or so.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Shri K. Santhanam (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Sir, mention is often made of the poorer classes and it is said that they are groaning under these high prices, but at the same time, it should not be forgotten that the so called rich classes are also finding it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. I, as a woman holding the purse-strings of a household can from my own personal experience say that it has become well nigh impossible for me to make both ends meet as far as the expenses are concerned. It is however, not only that prices are high; commodities are sometimes unattainable and this necessitates one to go to the black market. Sir, I am one of those people who have never encouraged the black market in order to get the necessities of life, but I ask the Honourable House to consider that thousands of people are doing it not because they want to but because they are obliged to out of sheer necessity and although it is anti-social, one cannot help it. De-control has taken place in this country and we have been seeing things going from bad to worse. As I said, it is no use lamenting over what has happened, but in every walk of life, not only the necessities of life, but in everything prices have gone up so high that it is absolutely impossible for the people to live. Only a few days ago I received a notice from the school where my children are being educated that their fees have gone up by 25 per cent. Sir, education, food, clothing, servants, everything is getting more and more difficult every day. And I think that it is high time that some sort of measures were devised in order to meet the situation and to improve these chaotic conditions.

There is a basic factor which I would like to bring to the notice of the House, for the scarcity of wheat; upto recently the people in the rural areas did not eat wheat. It is commonly known that the ordinary tenant in the U.P. lived on jowar and chena and did not eat the high class wheat that was left for the consumption of the cities and towns. It is also known that during the last years of the war, these people benefited so much by the great rise in prices that it was easy enough for a tenant to pay his rents by selling a very small quantity of his wheat at the beginning and by retaining the remaining amount not only for his and his family's consumption, but also in order to get a high price later on. I am absolutely of the opinion that as long as the price of wheat does not go down, the prices of other commodities will remain high and therefore the main thing that the Government should consider at this moment is how to increase production of wheat and how to get wheat from the cultivators, who are hoarding it in order to get a very good price later on, because whereas before, the tenant had to pay his rents by selling the wheat

[Begum Aizaz Rasul]

coming from the fields, now it is not necessary for him to do so, and therefore he hoards until the very last moment when he can get the highest price that he wants for it and therefore, ways and means have to be devised in order to get as much wheat as possible after leaving a sufficient quantity for the consumption of the cultivator.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why leave that also?

Begum Aizaz Rasul: No. Why should we get it? I am not against it. I do not grudge the people of the rural areas eating wheat but the consequential increased demand must be met with somehow. It is also a fact that the tenants have benefited so much by the inflation, by the rise of prices during these last few years of war that they are now in a position not to sell the wheat in the open market. They are black marketing . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Certainly not.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: I stand to correction, but that is my personal experience and I know that, I can say this for my province that every tenant today, if his house is searched, will have so much wheat that even if a sufficient quantity is left for his family's consumption, there would be quite enough that can be released and brought into the open market to be sold to the consumers. He is not doing this; he is hoarding it, he is keeping it till the last moment in order to get the highest price.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: The procurement figures for U.P. were very good.

Mr. Chairman: I would suggest that the speaker should be allowed to continue the speech uninterrupted.

Begum Aizaz Rasul: The honourable Mover has pointed that the figures of procurement are very good. I do not think it is quite true, because, I have been a member of the Civil Supplies Committee and I know that whereas compared with other provinces, the figures in U.P. were good, 3 P.M. they were not as good as they ought to have been. The United Provinces, as every one knows, is a surplus province, has been a surplus province for wheat and yet what do we find? It has been necessary for the Government of that province to import wheat from other provinces and even then they have not been able to meet the requirements of the people. As was quoted by the honourable Mover himself, wheat today is selling in the market at 1 seer 4 chhataks for a rupee. Now, Sir, is this a tolerable state of affairs? I hold to my opinion that as long as the price of wheat does not go down, the other necessities of life will certainly go on becoming more expensive and unprocurable as they are doing today. Therefore, the whole crux of the thing is that the production of wheat must go up and that necessary steps should be taken to see that as much wheat as can be procured should be brought to the open market. I will not waste more time of the House, because, as I have said, most of the points have been made out and there is nothing that the honourable members of this Honourable House do not know as regards the conditions in the country. Things must and should improve but we go round in a vicious circle—the bottleneck of transport is always in the forefront, then labour, then other things and that I feel that democracy in this respect has failed and we need a dictator who will be able to sweep away all these difficulties and give to the people their daily needs in food and clothing. It is a sad and indeed a tragic thing that Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, should have been taken away from us. While far from being a dictator, he wielded such an influence even in the economic field that if he had been alive, on account of his steadying influence and his judgment and foresight, the country would have been saved the great hardships that it is undergoing at the present moment. He knew that the country was rampant with corruption, bribery, black marketing and all the other evils of a social system that have unfortunately been increasing day by day in this country in the last few years. Unfortunately we have lost in him a leader of great capacity and therefore, it is now up to the Government to devise ways and means in order to do what is best for the country. In my opinion, Sir, a Commission that will tour the provinces will hardly do any good. A Commission, given absolute powers to do what in its opinion is right to relieve the conditions that are prevalent at present, to report as soon as possible, with a full promise from the Government that its findings will be given effect to immediately so as to improve the conditions and end this state of affairs is the best thing that is needed under the present conditions.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): Sir, some of my colleagues of the Government, will, I understand, speak on this resolution if they have the opportunity and the time, and deal with the various departments and the different aspects of the nation's economy with which they are most concerned. At this stage, however, I wish to put before the House a few considerations, and the reactions of the Government generally to this resolution that has been placed before the House.

I am glad that this resolution has come up or rather that this subject has come up before this House. It helps in some way. It might have been better if this subject had been discussed at some later stage during this session; at any rate from the Government's point of view, it would have been more convenient and Government might have been able to give a more positive lead to this House or a more positive assurance to this House as to what they were going to do about it. Nevertheless, the subject is of such vital significance that the more this House considers it the better. Now, I look upon this debate, if I may respectfully say so, not as one in which any, what I might call, final directions are given, but rather one in which the House tells us and tells itself, the various approaches to the question and how one might tackle it, so that we may keep the various facts of the problem before us and be in a better position to come to final conclusions.

The resolution in so far as it calls attention to a certain state of the country is obvious. It is not necessary for any member of the House to remind the Government or any one else that the economic conditions in the country are bad, due to inflation, due to rise in prices and due to hundred and one things. What is necessary is to find out how to check this, how to overcome and how to conquer this; that is the problem. In the resolution itself a suggestion is made that a commission may be appointed. If the House so wants it, the Government is prepared to appoint a commission. But, I must confess that I do not see the value of such a commission and I entirely agree with my honourable friend Bhargava when he said earlier in the day that Commissions have normally been appointed in the past to sabotage anything or to postpone decisions and not to meet any difficulty. I do not think that a commission going round the country could possibly give us more facts or figures than we have or that we can possess. The House knows that periodically the Government have been in touch with the provincial Governments, their Premiers and their Ministers for Food, Industries and the like. They have often complained that they are summoned to Delhi so often and that their work in their provinces suffers. It is a just complaint. Nevertheless, it is very important that we should confer with each other and act co-operatively and jointly and these conferences have a great importance. Therefore, there is nothing really in the nature of facts that we can get by going round the country. That would immediately afford an excuse not only to the Central Government, but to the provincial Governments also to say that the commission is considering this problem, let us wait and see what they say, and they will do nothing. While they wait and do nothing, events do not stop; events are marching ahead and it is no good shutting our eyes to that fact. We need not be alarmists; but conditions have been deteriorating. A thing like inflation if it gets loose

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completely, goes ahead at a headlong pace. This is no time for commissions and committees.

As I said, I do not propose at this moment to indicate with any preciseness what measures Government are likely to take. I would listen to the criticisms and the suggestions of the members of the House and then give thought to them, all of us together jointly and then place such proposals as we have formally before the House at a later stage for them to consider. The House knows that recently we have changed our policy in regard to textiles and for all practical purposes control on textiles has been introduced. We are watching that situation carefully and I have no doubt that, if it is necessary, we shall impose even stricter control there or anywhere else—now while the policy of Government in these matters has to be carefully considered, even in regard to that policy two or perhaps more fundamental matters arise. One is, trying to improve the situation as it is by such measures as appear to us feasible and proper; the other is, trying to seek for the causes of this economic distemper rather more deeply and trying to meet them. That is a bigger problem perhaps and that is ultimately the right approach. But at the moment of some crisis or various kinds of crisis it becomes sometimes a little difficult to go too deep down and upset a certain set-up because at the moment one suffers from it, whatever the ultimate advantages from it might be. However, there is that deeper approach and what I may call a somewhat more superficial approach,—may be one has to strike a balance between the two. Now whatever policy Government might adopt, one thing seems to me exceedingly important and that is the machinery which helps us in adopting that policy. The fact of the matter is that we live in the matter of adopting policies from hand to mouth. Many of us are eminent and able men with very definite and clear ideas on the subject; I am not challenging that fact but I am talking about Government machinery for the moment. An Honourable Member criticised us by saying that we are still following the old bureaucracy, and the rest. I do not agree with him in that. Of course the old bureaucracy is there as the old opposition is there in different garbs, and the old everything is there; we are all old now in our several ways. But it is no good blaming that bureaucracy; some of them are good, some of them are bad and some of them are indifferent. Some of them are experts in particular departments and no Government can be carried on administratively or otherwise without the experts' help even if the experts sometimes go wrong. And I think it is rather ungenerous and unkind always to raise our voice and cast a burden on the administrative personnel or the experts that may be there to advise Government: and certainly I do not wish to shelter myself behind anybody else's fault. But when I talked about machinery, and specially the economic machinery, I was thinking of something rather different. In olden times I believe the general economic policy in India was really not determined in India at all; it was determined in Whitehall or in the city of London or wherever else it might have been determined; it was only given effect to here and minor changes here and there might perhaps have been allowed. It was not necessary, therefore, for any extensive or intensive machinery to develop here which might help in the formulation of policy. Now we are far too much accustomed to talk in rather vague terms of high policies, whether it is a capitalistic policy or socialistic or communistic or any other policy. They have a certain value because they represent a certain approach to fundamental problems. Nevertheless when any Government has to adopt any policy that policy cannot be adopted by passing a vague resolution about socialism; that is not a policy, it is an approach to a policy. Now when we have to have detailed policies we cannot talk in vague terms. And as soon as you get away from vague terms you must have data, you must have statistics, you must know exactly what is happening and where and how. And what is more, you have to watch the changing data, the results of a particular policy from day to day, so that you can remedy an error or take another step whenever you feel like that. Now in most countries, whether they are socialistic like Russia or capitalistic like the U.S.A. or England or something half-way between the two, you will find an elaborate machinery for gathering data, for finding out and advising Government, apart from the normal statistical machinery which we have not got here to any large extent. Government have to have special advisers and economic experts, Councils, Boards, etc., which are in day to day touch with everything that is happening, produce data and statistics, consider the problem as a whole and advise Government or the special Minister under whom they work. Now what do we do here? We have able economists here, we have able people in various departments, we have able Ministers and the rest; but as we function, each person is specially concerned with his own department, that is, his own Ministry. For instance, there is our Minister for Industry and Supply; he has got a tremendous job on his shoulders; he has to work terrifically hard in the day to day routine work and the determination of policy here and there; but necessarily his outlook is largely confined to the problems that come before his Ministry. So also with other Ministries, whether it is Food or Finance or anything else. Now it is no one's particular job to think of the whole economic picture of the whole of India, partly because nobody has the time to do so and partly because it is nobody's special job to do it. That I consider to be a very serious lacuna in our administrative and other apparatus. It should be the job not only of a Minister but of a group of advisers to think specially and almost exclusively of the economic picture of all India as a whole, balancing it, understanding the effect of one thing over another and then advise on that basis. Today the advise we get would be good advice from competent economists even if it is for the whole of India; but probably they may not have enough data because we cannot have all the data. But normally we get split-up advice, if I may say so. Of course it is possible for heads of various Ministries and departments to meet together and consider a question; and that is normally what they do. Nevertheless even when they meet they meet in a hurried moment for half an hour or so; some problem comes up before them and they apply their minds for that half-hour to that problem and give their opinion and go away and find out something else. It is not as if any of them had applied his unencumbered mind to the subject and brought out topics and proposals which Government or the Assembly or anybody else might consider. So I think one of the essential things we have to do is to frame some policy from day to day, we have to do something to meet the immediate menace. But what I consider more important at the present moment and for the future is to set up a machinery so that proper policies can be framed. That machinery may consist—we have come to no decisions but these are only ideas—of a Minister for Economic and Social Affairs, but the Minister can do precious little unless he has got that background of information and advice by experts. He should have a few competent men who will concentrate on those problems from an All-India point of view and advise with statistics behind them. Now obviously such a Minister would rather tend to overlap with other Ministries which deal with economic matters. That would be unfortunate and that might sometimes create friction and delay. The more I think of it the more I feel that such a Minister of Economic Affairs should have no administrative or executive functions. His special job should be, without any such functions, to consider these problems with the help of his advisers, to confer with each individual Minister in regard to his problem so as to co-ordinate the activities to a Central policy: but the responsibility for the Ministry will remain on the particular Minister in charge of it and it will not be that of the Economic Minister. If I may say so, he should only confer occasionally so as to keep in touch and co-ordinate but he should not have any executive authority.

Now, I am just thinking aloud and not putting forward any scheme or proposal before the House, because I am terribly anxious, as every member of

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this House must be, that something should be done to meet this rising menace in this country. We have many very grave problems before us; as the House knows, we are carrying on a bit of a war in a part of the country. In spite of this, I think the biggest problem for us, and the most vital problem is this economic problem, because that ultimately lies at the root of the problem. If our roots get weak, then all the branches, leaves and flowers dry up. Therefore, I can assure the House that so far as we are concerned, we attach the highest importance to it and I am not afraid of confessing to this House that my mind in regard to what steps we should take has been far from clear and I have sought guidance from others and I should continue to seek guidance from others in this House. Therefore I welcome this resolution because I thought the Government would get some guidance from the members of this House which would enable them to think aright. Within the course of the next few days—within a week I think—we are likely to meet certain representatives of various groups of economic interests: some representatives of labour: some representatives of industry: other representatives, experts: some economists and the like.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the peasants? Do they not come anywhere in the picture?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I was not aware of the fact that the peasants were a leisured class! I mentioned labour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But they are separate from industrial labour.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Well, they are certainly peasants!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are so big that they escape notice and they get nowhere!

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So we do wish to consult and confer with important interests and who can forget the peasants of India, so long as Mr. Ranga is here to represent them.

So that is all I venture to place before the House for the present, and I should like to seek the indulgence of the House not to be more precise on the part of Government as to what we are going to do, except that we hope in the course of this Session we shall put forward more precise proposals before.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, This House is very glad that an opportunity has been given to us to discuss this question. Today, the inflation is practically ruining the country at every stage. I had an occasion about two months back to draw the attention of the Government to the rising spiral of prices and I stated in that context that the grant of belated and sporadic monetary increases to the wage-earners and salaried employees is not appreciated by them. You, Sir, while you were speaking on this issue stated that there was a rise to the extent of about 250 per cent. But I think that that is not the proper way to look at this question. If we look to the index figures we will find that the cloth index in the first week of July was 452: for cereals 468: for pulses 443: sugar 450 and vegetable oils 547 These are the articles with which the common man is concerned and as such, I think that during the last year of the policy of de-control which the Government had followed the index has gone up in essential commodities by about 150. In 1947 the index was roundabout 300. Therefore, Sir, unless steps are immediately taken to bring down the prices to a level which the common man will be able to pay, I think we are heading towards economic collapse. It is agreed on all sides in this House that the situation is serious. The disease is deteriorating every day and we have got our doctor, the Honourable the Finance

Minister, and I think that he with his monetary experience of a generation will be able to save the position, if he so wills it.

It has been stated in season and out of season that the problem before the country is more production. I agree, Sir, that the problem before the country is more production. But looking to the conditions obtaining in the country as practical people, we must decide whether in the near future—within a year or two—are we going to get increased production? My answer to that is, no. Capital goods are very difficult to obtain. Even for manufactured products, you must get capital goods according to the sterling settlement which has been arrived at in England and it will take time before they arrive. It will easily take two years before you will be able to take out even one unit of production from the capital goods which would have to be erected here in this country.

In regard to agricultural products, let us understand that there is a limit to production. All the irrigation projects, all the projects that we have got in view to increase the food products as well as the raw materials will easily take five to seven years before we will get the desired increased production. Therefore, the Government must come out and boldly take the people into confidence and say: Here is our economy. It is not wise to rely upon some potential production that may turn up after five to seven years. The country must reconcile with the scarcity economy and not talk in terms of the economy of the plenty: that is the position before us. Therefore, my suggestion is that taking into consideration the consumption side which is there, the production side, which as I have already stated, is not capable of being increased to an extent which will absorb the surplus purchasing power that we have got in the country. Therefore my suggestion is that the purchasing power which is there in the country in the form of about Rs. 1,200 crores of paper currency and about Rs. 2,400 crores in Government securities, loans, bonds, etc.; and about Rs. 1,200 crores in the form of deposits in banks, making a total of Rs. 4,800 crores—this large amount lying with rich persons for operation are unnecessary and therefore a substantial portion of it according to need, should be frozen for a period of 5 years because, it is this amount which is playing havoc with our markets. Otherwise, there should have been no reason why the prices of foodstuffs should have gone up to such an extent in U.P. which is admittedly a surplus province. After the de-control prices were coming down but after a month or two the prices, we found, began to shoot up. I personally feel that it is the speculators who have got more money in their pocket to play with the market, who have raised the prices and therefore in my opinion the best remedy that I can suggest is to withdraw this purchasing power,—this power of the purse which indulges in speculation—by freezing it to the extent that the Finance Minister thinks proper. It is this credit which the rich people have got either in the banks or in government securities that is responsible. After all even securities are also liquid money. At the same time it must also be understood that our agricultural classes, whose cause is so ably represented by Prof. Ranga, have also got their purchasing power, which has been released owing to their indebtedness being wiped out more or less during the last 3 or 4 years and owing to the land revenue which they are paying in money. So in terms of commodities they are paying less than what they used to pay before. Of course nobody grudges them that but even that purchasing power also requires to be curtailed. This purchasing power which is there among the masses and the rural classes particularly can certainly be absorbed if we have got consumption goods. We have to consider whether the standard of living of the peasant has gone up. The standard of living has not gone up. Money does not give them a higher standard of living. It is commodities and services which will raise their standard of living and as I have said we have come to the conclusion that as far as production of essential commodities is concerned it is limited. We have to supply them the commodities which they require in order to increase their standard of living. Under the circumstances that purchasing power also

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should be curtailed, if possible, by a sort of deferred payment. That purchasing power can be curtailed till such time when they will be able to get consumer goods. Therefore I would very earnestly request the Finance Minister to give more thought to this particular aspect of the problem and forget for the time being the old, classical and orthodox methods of dealing with the problem of prices and inflation.

I understood the Honourable the Prime Minister to say that any step taken piecemeal is not going to solve our problem. The whole question has to be looked at in an integrated way. The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has announced the textile policy of the Government and unless this policy is integrated with their policy on the question of cotton and their policy in regard to other raw materials used in the production of cloth and at the same time unless that policy is corelated to the food problem, in my opinion, it is not going to have the desired results. Therefore I welcome the suggestion that the Honourable the Prime Minister has made that there must be a Ministry of Economic Affairs, which will not only tender advice from time to time to the Government of India but will also direct the provincial governments to follow an integrated policy so far as economic affairs of this country are concerned.

There was one small point which has been made by some of the members and it is almost a cruel criticism of the railways. It has become a sort of fashion to say that everything is bad because the railways are not working properly. May I ask if other ministries are working properly? Give a dog a bad name and hang it seems to be the fashion. Food prices are higher because the railways are not working properly, cotton prices are higher because the railways are not working properly, textiles are more costly because the railways are not working properly. I know the railway administration has deteriorated along with the deterioration in other sectors of our industry and economic life. So what may happen is that if we put the whole blame on one department it means that the other departments will not try to improve their portion of the job which they should do. That is the position. Particularly in this respect I would welcome the policy which the Prime Minister has enunciated that there must be a Ministry of Economic Affairs which will find out where the railways failed, where the Ministry for Industries and Supply failed, where the Food Ministry failed, etc. I think that is the best way in which you can evolve an integrated economy in this country. Unless the disease is tackled immediately I think we are in for trouble. Therefore, I do not approve of the suggestion made in the resolution that a Commission be appointed. What is there for, a Commission to investigate? Everybody knows what are the causes. The question is whether our Government which is guided by the Finance Minister in this matter is going to take immediate steps here and now and not wait even for a month. During the last one year the rupee that was worth about 5 annas has gone down to 3½ annas and if steps are not taken immediately it will come down to two annas. Therefore the problem is urgent. The disease is sapping every day our very lifeblood and so immediate steps should be taken by the Government in order to allay the anxieties and the worries that are more or less exercising the mind of all the workers in the country.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, if I intervene at this stage my reason for doing so is that frequent references have been made in the course of the debate to several items which come within the purview of my ministry. It is obivious that the question that is being discussed cannot be looked upon in an isolated fashion. We have to take an overall view of the existing condition in the country and also to explore how we have to attack the problem from all sides. At the same time occasions do arise when Government cannot sit idle and allow things to drift and have to take certain definite action regarding special items. That is the reason why we decided a few weeks ago to reimpose control with regard to the textile industry.

I am not going to deal with the general questions which are indeed serious. The Finance Minister will deal with the special question relating to inflation but I wish just to place a few observations regarding the experience which Government have had with regard to the working of the de-control policy on textiles.

We decided to introduce a de-control policy in January last. There was a demand from various sections of the House itself, as also a demand which was voiced from many sections of the public, that after a few years of control policy Government should adopt a de-control policy with regard to certain special commodities. When we started this policy of de-control the position really was not very unsatisfactory—we had in the country about 100,000 bales of cloth which was due to be sent to Pakistan, but which Pakistan was unable to take for reasons which I need not enter into here.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U.P.: General): How many hundred thousand bales have you now in reserve?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: About 300,000 bales.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Yet you have to re-introduce control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If my honourable friend will hold himself a little in patience I shall explain the reason why we have to do so. It appeared that there was increased production. Production had gone down in 1946 and 47 and, on account of various factors which came into operation, production came up considerably in 1948, though not to the 1939 level. But taking into account the fact that workers were working for eight hours a day instead of nine hours previously, production was satisfactory. There is very often a confusion in the minds of members and also the public that even during the regime of de-control Government should take effective steps to control the prices. I would like to tell the House that that is a demand which cannot possibly be met by any government. Either you have de-control or you have control. If you have a policy of de-control, naturally you must allow the forces of demand and supply to play and then watch how things may develop.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There was also a demand that all the mills should be taken over and run by Government.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If we take over the mills and run them that is a policy of control.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That will be more effective control.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Let us first of all make up our minds whether a policy of de-control has to continue or a policy of control has to come. I would beg of the members of the House to consider whether they want de-control and thereby allow economic forces to play or whether they want the Government to come into the field and introduce effective control, may be hundred per cent.—from production right up to distribution in respect of all essential commodities.

When we introduce the policy of de-control, prices went up. We had the stamping of prices. There was an agreement—a gentlemen's understanding—that these price structures will be observed in practice. But of course it did not depend on the mills alone. It depended on the trade also, and it did not depend on one section of the trade only, because the middlemen who came to function between the millowner and the consumer were numerous. The increase of prices was the result of certain steps which were taken by the industry, as also by different sections of the trade. The result was the consumers suffered. During the period January to April there was the stamping of prices. But actually those prices were not being observed. The result was that Government lost even with regard to income-tax, because the books of account only

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showed the stamped prices and they had no reference whatsoever to the increased prices at which cloth was being openly sold.

You, Sir, speaking a short while ago rightly pointed out that Government cannot change its policy overnight, and once having introduced a policy of de-control it was certainly up to the Government to allow the policy of de-control to have its full part to play. A chance was given to the industry and to the trade. I am not here to blame all sections of industry or the trade. but I can assert without fear of any contradiction that the Government and the people of the country have been very heavily let down by some sections of the industry and trade so far as textile was concerned. The fact remains that production went up and yet prices were not reduced. Prices were not reasonable; prices were not fair. You may ask why the Government did not take action previously. The chief difficulty of the Government was that if Government had to take any action, it must bear some relationship to reasonable prices which Government had to fix. For that purpose Government ordered an enquiry to be made by the Tariff Board. And within a week of the receipt of the report of the Tariff Board Government decided on its policy and also took action without any unreasonable delay whatsoever. The policy which we have now introduced is control. As the Prime Minister pointed out, the situation is being watched, and if it is so necessary we shall have to stiffen this control. But I can say this, that we have taken effective steps for the purpose of securing the entire production of mill-made cloth. The mills have been told that the entire production will be placed at the disposal of Government and will be sold at prices which will be fixed by Government. Therefore, unless there is any leakage, unless production goes down, or production goes out from behind the scenes—against which also proper steps are being taken by Government—we get the entire mill production in our hands.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I enquire whether cloth is going to be rationed? If not, how is price control going to be made effective?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Cloth will have to be rationed, if necessary. So far as distribution is concerned, we have left it to the Provinces. If I can very briefly explain what the scheme is, we have taken charge of the entire mill production of cloth. Now this cloth is being priced according to the schedule fixed by us. It will not be allowed to move to the Provinces except through agencies for whose integrity the Provincial Governments will have to be reponsible. It will therefore be known that so much quantity of cloth goes to a particular Province. How that cloth will be distributed will be a matter to be decided by the Provincial Government itself. Here it may be possible for the Provincial Government to license existing traders and to secure the distribution of some portion of the cloth through them or, if the Provincial Government feels that it has an organisation strong and efficient enough to be able to distribute the entire requirements of the Province through its own shops, it is open to the Provincial Government to do so. At any rate we have now evolved a policy which, if properly worked out, will enable Government to have the cloth reach the hands of the consumers at reasonable prices.

The question was raised by Mr. Lari "what about the interim period? Why is it that the traders have been given the privilege and the opportunity of selling the cloth which is now with them through their own agencies?" Nearly about four months stocks of cloth are floating about in the country. Mind you, it is all unstamped cloth. You cannot possibly recover and stamp them, because they have been distributed through hundreds and thousands of dealers through out the country. With regard to that also, we have decided that although Government will not ordinarily interfere with normal trade agencies, if Government finds that there is any attempt to hoard these stocks or to sell these stocks of cloth at prices which Government considers to be unreasonable, then Government will be entitled to freeze and confiscate these stocks and compel their sale at fair prices. In fact, such steps have already been taken. When I was in Calcutta a week ago the West Bengal Government had frozen the entire stocks which were with the wholesale dealers. Although at one stage it was stated that only about 8,000 bales of cloth were available it was later discovered that nearly 20 thousand bales were available. The same step has been taken by the U.P. Government and Bombay Government also.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General): May I know whether Government is giving enough latitude and freedom to the Provincial Governments in the matter of distribution of these commodities?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We are giving full liberty to the Provincial Governments to arrange for the distribution in such manner as they consider fit and proper.

Shri Biswanath Das: My information from the Government of Orissa is.....

Mr. Chairman: I think no argument can be permitted. Let the Honourable Minister be permitted to pursue his speech.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I may assure the honourable member that the policy that we have now formulated gives complete authority to the Provincial Governments to prepare their own scheme for distribution. If it trusts particular traders who prove to be dishonest, the responsibility for that will rest with the Provincial Government. If it feels that it has a machinery efficient enough to distribute the entire cloth within the Province through its own agencies, it is open for it to do so. That viewpoint was communicated to the Premier of Orissa also.

Shri Biswanath Das: I was referring not only to cloth but to other commodities as well, like iron and steel etc.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am talking of textiles in respect of which Government has taken a definite and decisive policy.

Legislation is shortly going to be passed. Necessary orders have been drafted. I can anticipate the decision of the Government and announce that certain forms of punishment are also being provided for. At present offenders can be fined or imprisoned. We are going to change the law to make it incumbent on every court not only to impose fines but also to send the offender to jail for every offence that he commits.

Of course much will depend on the co-operation that we receive from the public. We had some reference to the smuggling that has taken place. It is no use our merely blaming the bureaucratic machinery. How did it take place?—because the ordinary people also came into it. Thousands and thousands of bales of cloth went to Pakistan. because there are lots of people who thought they could just make some money out of the existing difficulty which was facing the country. Now, for that purpose it is essential that public opinion should also be properly regulated and educated. We have made an appeal to the Provincial Governments that they should contact popular leaders in the country and obtain their help for the purpose of explaining the new policy of Government. And if there are any offenders among the officials, there should be no hesitation on the part of the public to bring the case to the notice of the Government for necessary action. A special Enforcement Branch is being attached to my Ministry and I have been fortunate enough in securing the services of a most competent police official, Mr. Jaitly coming from the United Provinces, whom the Premier of the United Provinces has been good enough to place at the disposal of the Central Government. He has taken over charge from today and I have left it to him to organise in consultation

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with the Provincial Governments the machinery for enforcement of the new textile policy of the Government of India. I can give this assurance to the House on behalf of Government that Government is determined to see that the new textile policy is given full effect to. There is no question of our backing out of it. We have taken a decisive step and whatever happens we shall go ahead, of course with the full co-operation of the public.

A question was raised about the undue profits which were made by the industry and the trade during the decontrol period. Now that is a question which is yet under consideration of Government. It is not possible for me to say what the final decision will be. But let not any Member of this House or any member of the public or even an industrialist go away with the impression that Government is going to sit idle even over that aspect of the matter. Some steps will have to be taken for the purpose of recovering some at least of the undue profits, the illegitimate profits, which were made by the industry during a period when it was expected that they and the trade would be able to stand up and face the crisis which had come before the country.

Sir, this is only with regard to one particular item.

With regard to the other matters which come within the purview of my Ministry like iron and steel, paper, and so forth, I need not go into the details but it is a matter of deep regret and anxiety that in 1947 production had gone down with respect to every one of these items. In 1948 there have been some signs of improvement. I admit that the control policy also has certain defects. There is black-marketing. There are allegations made about the work done by the officers. But there again if we get co-operation from the public, if certain cases are brought to our notice, I see no reason why Government will hesitate to take action.

I have appointed special committees with regard to the major industries like coal; for iron and steel I appointed it last week. I have appointed a non-official gentleman as the Chairman of the Committee and all representatives from the different indentors and consumers are on the Committee. The policy of the Government will be placed before that Committee for scrutiny or examination at least twice a month and any criticism which may come through such a channel to the Government will naturally deserve the most serious consideration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (U. P.: General): Have you done anything for cement also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: With regard to cement also what I have done is this. We are making Provincial allotments. There is no control with regard to cement; prices are fixed by virtue of a "gentlemen's agreement" between the producers and the Government of India and certain quotas are sent to each Province. Whenever a particular quota goes to a Province it is open to that Province to pass an order to fix the price and have complete control over the distribution. That power I have given to the Provinces and in some Provinces they have enacted special legislation and have taken over the responsibility for distribution. What I have felt is this: in a vast country like ours it is impossible for the Central Government, sitting in Delhi, to make itself responsible for actual distribution throughout the country. The only agency which we can trust will be our Provincial Governments and we have delegated many of our powers to the Provincial Governments and authorised them to pass laws for the purpose of fixing prices and also imposing such measures of control as may be deemed necessary for purposes of those particular areas.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Minister aware that in certain cement factories cement has accumulated and there are no wagons available to export it to other places? This is so especially in my Province of C.P.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I was coming to the question of transport. The position has been difficult, no doubt. Dr. Matthai has been doing his best to improve the position, but this is a matter which is perhaps even beyond Dr. Matthai. There are certain matters which have arisen which cannot be just overcome, if we try to overcome them, in a day or two; certain long term measures have to be taken and have been taken. A suggestion was made that with regard to textiles, the difficulty in movement was responsible for the high prices. That is not so; more cloth moved to Provinces during the last six months than it ever did during the last two years, and yet the prices went up because there was a collusion between certain sections of the industry and the trade. But so far as transport is concerned we have tried to regulate and rationalize movement as far as possible. I admit that even today we are not producing all that we can produce because of bottlenecks which have been created on account of transport difficulties. But these are matters which, as I said at the beginning will have to be examined from an overall point of view and not treated individually.

I can give this assurance to the House that so far as the major items coming within my purview are concerned, I shall be prepared to discuss with any Member of the House or any Committee thereof, and if any constructive suggestions are made for the purpose of making an improvement even on a short term basis, I shall be only too glad to confer with them and see what we can possibly do. But it is no use our appointing a Commission. We know what are the facts; we know what the causes of the disease are. We know what the bottlenecks are. We have now to put our heads together and evolve a general plan which may go to improve the situation in the shortest possible time, so as to save the country from a grave economic crisis.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): Are Government satisfied that the penal powers they have got just now are sufficient to punish these black-marketeers effectively?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: It is not a question of power alone, it is a question of finding out the culprits and putting them in jail.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: But once you have found them out, have you got the powers?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have got those powers.

Mr. Chairman: Before I call upon the next speaker, I want to ascertain the wishes of the House regarding the course of the debate on this Resolution. It is certainly a most important Resolution and many speakers are anxious to speak. Therefore there are two suggestions which have been made. One is to increase the duration of this evening session by one hour, and the other is to carry over the debate to the next Non-Official Day.

Several Honourable Members: Carry it over to the next Non-Official Day

Mr. Chairman: So we carry it over.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, may I make one request to you and to the Leader of the House, instead of allowing this debate to stand over to a distant date? On previous occasions, as the Honourable Leader and other Ministers will remember, special days were allotted to discuss the food problem, the industrial policy, and so on. The subject of the present Resolution also is one which is agitating the minds of the people all over the country. It will be a consolation to them to hear that the Ministry is applying itself, and

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the Legislature and the Government are applying themselves, whole-heartedly to this matter and taking steps. Tomorrow is an official day. My request to the Leader of the House is this that he may kindly consent to allow this Resolution to go over tomorrow as a special case and let us finish it. Half a day tomorrow might be more than enough. Let us finish it tomorrow instead of allowing it to stand over to a distant date and allowing speculations of all sorts to come in. As you know there are two sets of opinions. Rumours may go about, some people may go panicky. The situation may worsen if a long time is taken to consider it and then it may not be under control. Therefore I would request that the discussion on the Resolution be finished tomorrow.

4 P. M. I would personally not mind sitting till 6 o'clock if the House is willing; otherwise, let it stand over till tomorrow if the Honourable the Leader of the House agrees, and we may have one hour in the morning, or half a day.

An Honourable Member: Only one hour? why not the whole of tomorrow?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, why not the whole of tomorrow? Or we can discuss it as long as it takes. In any case, it will be finished by tomorrow. I am only waiting to see what the reaction of the Honourable the Prime Minister is.

Mr. Chairman: I may inform the House that it is not in my power to agree to carry it over to tomorrow. I will have to get the consent of the Speaker. Subject to that, I would like to know the wishes of the House.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I fail to understand entirely my honourable friend's talk about carrying it over to tomorrow or postponing it later creating "panic". What exactly does he mean by "panic"? Does he mean that if it is not carried over till tomorrow there will be panic and if it is, there will be no panic? My mind is completely unable to understand what he has been driving at. Government is prepared to give not one day but every day to the consideration of this subject if it needs, but I just don't see how the continuation of this debate on another day or its non-continuation prevents any panic or accentuates any panic. It has nothing to do with panic. So let us put that aside.

Now, I quite agree this subject has got to be debated more. It can be debated, if you like, tomorrow or a week later or thereabouts just as you may decide. I think personally that it will be far better to debate it some time later rather than tomorrow, and if necessary later on Government will certainly give an official day for the purpose reserving the right as to which particular day should be fixed.

Some Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: I take it that the House is agreeable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to have had the assurances that my honourable friend Mr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has given us just now, but I wish to confess that I am not quite satisfied with the stand taken by the Government because if only the Government had not trusted to the so-called "good sense" of the industrialists and their "gentlemen's agreement" with these industrialists, surely, the position would have been much better so far as the textiles front is concerned. It is going the wrong way to tell the people who are themselves interested in cheating the public to behave themselves and putting them on the back and telling them, "Oh, you gentlemen, you are very great people. Even if any one out of twenty of you were to dissent, we are going to yield, so that we will go to the public as a sort of unanimous group." And, Sir, this is exactly what my honourable friend the Minister and his Ministry have done in the last nine months and that is my reason, Sir, for not being able to agree with my honourable friend and his Ministry.

Apart from that, there was the other positive suggestion also. We made that suggestion even at the time when we asked for the de-control of cloth. We wanted one of two things to be done by the Government: Either de-control the whole thing and let the public take their own chance, or take charge of the whole of the textile production. At that time, if I remember aright, my honourable friend had assured the House that if the worst came to the worst he would certainly take courage in both his hands and take over the whole management and production of the textile industry. What does he do today? He comes back again with the same empty assurances that later on, if these steps do not succeed, he would not mind taking stricter steps. I am rather afraid, Sir, that these steps that he proposes to take today are likely to be again circumvented by these very ingenious gentlemen. There are certain sections of these textile industrialists who come to the Textile Advisory Committee meetings, who would not agree that they are doing anything wrong but at the same time as they look so wonderfully innocent and honest they are allowed to carry on the most nefarious trade going on in this country and till now the Government has not been able to come to grips with these gentlemen. The only way I can possibly think of in which the Government can come to grips with these people is simply by taking charge of their mills and running them themselves.

Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has himself admitted that production was looking up, therefore it is not the fault of the workers at all. I cannot agree with my honourable friend here, Mr. Lari, who said that the general good will of the people is all going from behind the National Government and if these Kashmir and Hyderabad crises are only solved, there would be anybody behind this Government. It is not so. The industrial worker are behind this National Government, Sir. Only just now, an hour back, I got the information that the so-called Token General Strike that was arranged in Bombay by the Communist and Socialist Parties has broken down and almost all the workers have gone to the mills. What does this show, Sir? It shows that the workers are behind the Government. Who are not behind this Government?—The capitalists are not behind this Government. The industrialists are not behind this Government. For some reason which is not known to me, our Government has till now not shown sufficient strength in coming to grips with these gentlemen, in bringing them to book and making them behave themselves towards the public.

Then, Sir, coming to a practical suggestion in regard to textiles, I wish to suggest that so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned I am glad so much liberty is being given to them in regard to the distribution; at the same time I want the Central Government to give them advice to see that as much of this distribution as possible is entrusted to the cooperative societies and also to the weavers' societies, so that there would be much less opportunity for any sort of blackmarketing in the Provinces than there had been in the past.

Coming to the next point, some friends rather in a grudging fashion had been complaining that the peasants are very prosperous. I wish they would only read day before yesterday's Hindu of Madras where it was stated that the Madras Government officials themselves were complaining very bitterly against the Government of India, because manures, fertilisers, iron, seeds and various other things that the peasants are badly in need of have not been supplied to the Madras Government so that they could supply them in turn to our peasants. Peasants have been obliged to pay through their nose for all these things. Has anybody taken note of these things? They say that all the facts

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are before the Government. Do we know whether the peasants have get their pockets full of money or whether if we go to the villages and search the pockets of the officers we would find their pockets are full of money. If we actually do that, we shall be staggered by the actuality of things.

Then, Sir, I wish support one suggestion which you yourself had made earlier, and that is that there should be a certain amount of compulsory saving. Now, if that is so, so far as professionals are concerned it can be easily enforced. So far as the peasants are concerned, I wish to make this offer. Just as the U.P. Government had done in the case of sugar cane prices some time ago, let instructions be given to all the Provincial Governments that when prices are being paid by any mill owner or anybody else to any peasant, whether it is 5 per cent. or 4 per cent. or whatever it is, a certain percentage of the sale price of the grain ought to be kept back by the Reserve Bank and it may be made available to peasants when the depression which you warned about is likely to come. I am sure the peasants would be only too glad to agree to this, provided you know how to put it before them. But if you go and tell them that they are all hoarders how can you expect them to accept such a law and my honourable friend Malaviyaji had himself corrected that lady's wrong assertion and said that procurement in U.P. is as good as last year, if not better what she said was that there was hoarding and it was wrong. What is happening is, the peasant eats a little more because he has a little more grain. If he does that, are you to grudge him? If the peasant has got the grain, he is prepared to place it at the disposal of the Government provided you are prepared to pay him a reasonable price. What is the price that you are paying him? Let us go to Madras. Last year this time there was terrific fear of widespread starvation. But what happened? Did starvation take place after de-control has been brought in? Why is it that starvation was not there? Why is there no widespread cry either from the Government or from the public that there is going to be any mass starvation?

That is so because the grain is there and the grain is being placed in the market by the peasants themselves.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): At what price?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am going to tell my honourable friend; he is very keen in getting dearness allowance for the postmen and also for all the professional classes. Sir, we wanted Rs. 13 last year per bag and the Government of Madras did give it. The Madras Government did not find it necessary to use coercive measures. With Rs. 15 all the grain is coming into the market. In fact the complaint is that several of the peasants had already placed in the market their grain at Rs. 12 and it is the merchants like my honourable friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari I suppose who have got these hoards, and who evade in income-tax and super-tax.

With regard to banking credit which you yourself have touched, I wish to make one point. We find that last year there was much less of inflation, that is less currency than there is today. Therefore there is greater reason why there should be less of this banking currency. According to Mr. Deshmukh, the Governor of the Reserve Bank, there was as much of banking currency this year as there was last year and a little more according to him—500 crores and more. Why should it have been allowed? I find fault with my honourable friend the Finance Minister.

An Honourable Member: It did not go up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Because there is no warrant for it at all. I do not want to congratulate him because he is not going to allow anything more than so much of inflation, or new note circulation. I have got facts and figures to prove that there has been much greater circulation during the last 10 or 12 months and there is no justification for it. I am inclined to find fault with the Finance Department itself and its head. The Honourable Minister is very jealous about his Department and therefore I find fault with Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty himself.

Then I am in agreement with those two points made in the morning in regard to sugar and textiles, about which we have made a mess last year. We should not have allowed the traders to run away with the booty. At least now, we should take care not to allow them to do so. The Honourable Dr. Mookerjee said just now that they are going to devise some methods by which they are going to catch hold of them. I am not quite so sure of his prospect of success. He tried his best to follow these people according to the advice of the Honourable the Finance Minister to run after them and pour the profits back again into the exchequer. When we came to that kind of ethics, what we felt was we could not do anything at all. I am rather afraid unless he is very careful he would again come to have this cold feet.

I wish to suggest, Sir, that if we are to have a sort of control at all we must put a ceiling on wages and salaries and also we should establish cheap price shops for the sale of not only foodgrains but also fuel, kerosene, clothing and sugar. Unless we take up these things in a comprehensive manner I do not think really we can come to grips with the economic situation.

I cannot really congratulate myself on the proposal that is made by the Finance Minister that there is going to be an Economic Advisor Ministry. What is this Ministry if it is not going to have an administrative power, if it is not going to have any power at all over any of these gentlemen and particularly my honourable friend Mr. Matthai, who is the biggest bottle-neck in the country which everybody can possibly see. Then what is the earthly use this gentleman going about and knocking at every department and at every minister's door as a sort of adviser and afterwards expecting him to say: "I am not able to deliver the goods because of inflation". That is no good, Sir.

I am very much opposed to any idea of deflation. I agree with Mr. Deshmukh when he said that if we are to have any kind of change it is disinflation and not deflation. Deflation is going to be a much greater curse than inflation. We have had experience indeed of deflation for over 6 or 7 years in this country and our Government and our people did not know how to get out of it. If it had not been for the war we would not have got out of that deflation and unfortunately instead of coming into steady economic conditions we have got into this typhoid fever of inflation. Therefore, let us not go back to another fever, not inflation, but the other one whose name I do not quite just now remember. Therefore, Sir, what I suggest is that let us come to grips with this big question which has gained a stronghold over our industries, which has gained a hold through our distributive industries also and then it will be possible for you to make a beginning in bringing about this disinflation.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan (Madras: General): On a point of information I should like to know whether Prof. Ranga opposing the industrial policy of the Government. I know that he was supporting the policy of the Government in the previous session.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable member's speech is there and it is for the members to find out what it conveys.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): My task has become a little more difficult after the intervention of two of the Honourable Ministers, one declar-

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ing a policy he would pursue after consultation, and the other outlining some of the steps that have been taken and may yet be taken for dealing with this problem. At the same time it has also become a little more clear so far, at any rate as to the line of future action which may be expected. It is more difficult in this sense for individual speakers to address the House at this stage, since perhaps some of the courses that the Government may follow may have been prejudged and may have yet to be tried hereafter.

Knowing this difficulty, however, I venture to place some ideas before this House on the very difficult subject, and complicated at that. There can be, of course, no doubt of sympathy and agreement with the general spirit of the resolution and even the substance of the resolution and the amendments proposed. I also cannot dispute the figures that have been laid out here, except perhaps to point out that these figures relate only to publish prices which are not perhaps always actually paid prices; and consequently the prices paid by the consumer are not always the prices received by the producer. The benefit of rising prices, if any, has not gone at all, in my opinion to the producer.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: At all!

Prof. K. T. Shah: I would be a little more conservative in this instance at least and say "not wholly". The point, however that I am making, Sir, is that: given the machinery of distribution, given the machinery of the social system as it is, the primary producer does not really benefit to anything like the extent that the consumer has ground to complain. The debate in this house, as I have watched it so far, seems to have been almost entirely from the standpoint of the consumers' complaint. Being a consumer myself, also, I cannot say that I disagree with it. But I would like the House to realise that rising prices by themselves are not necessarily an evil. Rising prices if they are accompanied by increasing production, flourishing industry and improved standard of life, then they must be welcome. In fact there have been cases when the most powerful of States have deliberately increased prices by artificial inflation to avoid the evils of depression. Rising prices are a curse, rising prices are a ground for complaint because of the mal-distribution of the wealth, because of the inability of the producer, whether of the primary materials or of the secondary, to get the full benefit or at least part of the benefit of these rising prices.

If I raise my voice in support of this motion, it is solely because the root of the mischief is the unwholesome, unjust distribution of wealth in this country. It has been my calculation made several years ago, but I think substantially the situation has remained the same that something like 300 families in the country—and giving each of these families perhaps 100 members —30,000 people or one per cent. of the population of this country—monopolise something like 10 per cent. of the wealth of the country. Ten per cent. perhaps as measured by the Income-tax figures and those who evade Income-tax monopolise another 25 per cent. The so-called middle classes, with perhaps incomes between the taxable limit of exemption and the next higher step take about 35 per cent. The masses of the people do not get even the average or even half of the average of the so-called wealth of the country. Under these circumstances, rising prices must be complained of because the distributive system is so unfair and unjust.

These being the premises, the next point to which I would address myself is that the resolution deals with the causes and the remedies. Sir, the causes may be temporary, some passing evils, such as had been mentioned from several quarters of the House, such as we all know, for instance, shortage of materials for intensifying production, shortage of capital goods, shortage of supplies in the world markets, difficulties of transport, difficulties in the matter of distribution as you were good enough to say, break-down of the distributive system, decline in production because of civil disturbances and so on. These are temporary factors which do not touch the root of the evil. My heart went out to the Honourable the Prime Minister when he said that it is at the root that we have to deal with this matter and not with the superficial, ephemeral causes. We deal with those difficulties which are there at the moment and which we hope will answer to the steps one of the Ministers said are being adopted. But, if I may say so, the root mischief is the system of distribution of wealth.

A short time ago, one slogan was repeated almost *ad nauseum* in the press and on the platform "produce or perish". I felt like issuing a re-edited version of it,—produce *and* perish. That is to say, the producer will produce for the benefit of the person who takes the surplus value, the producer will produce for the benefit of the capitalist employer, for the benefit of those who loot the public by charging higher prices and who loot the Government by evading taxes, who demand protection for their industries, but who would also shout that no controls should be placed on them to check their nefarious operations. If the workers are to be called upon to produce for them, if the working classes are to be called upon to improve their efficiency, for those people who do not improve their machinery or morals, then I feel that the slogan, produce or perish will have no meaning for the working classes. The working classes—I include both peasants and the workers in factories—will have no incentive to produce so long as you do not strike at the root of the situation wherein lies the entire mischief, so long as you do not assure the minimum standard of living that any citizen in a decently civilized community is entitled to claim. Ours is a case in which the average standard of living is the poorest in the world, is the lowest which is hardly sufficient to keep the body and soul together. I am prepared to show to this House that the actual consumption in terms of calories, the actual consumption in terms of the average square meal is hardly enough to go for one meal for a day for an individual in this country. For that working population to be called upon to produce or perish is a mockery unless and until you change the basic situation and alter the fundamental distribution of the wealth of the country. At the present time, as I said before, one per cent. or less than one per cent. takes something like one-third of the wealth of the country while the rest of the population are left to starve on half of the average.

Similarly, the difficulties in transport, and the difficulties in the distributive system are all, in my opinion, temporary evils or temporary defects which can be and would be easily remedied if only we were determined enough to do so. You were good enough to say that ours is a large country. In that respect, I would also add that ours is a large population. If you want to deal with the situation, there will be no lack of men to do so. What is lacking is the drive, the imagination and a determined policy to deal with the situation. Somebody said, if you want to have control, have it in full and universally. I whole heartedly agree with him. Control or any such remedy would be of no effect if you go about in a half-hearted manner. Today you try it on distribution, tomorrow on production and the day after on regulating the hours, and the other day on putting some control on consumable stores. That would not do. In the civilised society of the type we are living, there is no such thing as freedom of enterprise, or for the matter of that, individual freedom. A civilised human being, by the very nature of the civilisation, must submit to control and discipline and regulation of all kinds. He has to live in a civilised society in which the lives of others are as sacred as his own. He cannot act according to his own will and the State is there to see that rules are made, discipline is imposed and controls are put in so that everybody gets a square deal. These controls are imposed by us, by our own choice, by our

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free votes; but we must have them if we wish to live in a civilised community. I for one have been holding this view from my cradle to the pyre. The system that needs to be corrected is the system of distribution. Where you should apply the axe in my opinion is not merely in controlling the prices, or inflation, not merely in calling upon a gentlemen's agreement assuming they are gentlemen to agree to certain conditions and then come to the House and say that they have badly let us down. Why should you think they would keep their word? No matter what promises they make or what assurances they give, I have never had in my life any trust or belief in that class and therefore I feel that those who trust that class of people would only invite miserable failure. Even now, I submit, it is not too late, if you see that the circumstances call for drastic remedies. You must deal drastically with those who have been proved to have misbehaved. Then you will find not only will the evils stop, not only will the complaints which we have every cause to make end, what is more, the inherent potential possibilities of this country will develop in a very rapid and very democratic manner, in a manner which will astound those people who have given no thought to them. I claim, I say it in all humility, to have made some study of these matters. Recently I have edited and brought out a series of reports of the National Planning Committee, which have taken the view that the Honourable the Prime Minister was pleased to place before this House, namely, to have an overall picture of every facet in the national economy. Viewing from that point of view, and not confining myself only to one aspect of the question, I am bound to tell you that unless and until radical remedies are taken for these radical evils, the solution will only be a passing one, if it is a solution at all and you will not be saved of the necessity to make confessions of the type that they have miserably let us down. Let me be the Cassandra and tell you that they will always let you down if you put your faith in false gods.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I have listened with interest to the speech of my honourable friend Dr. Mookerjee as also of the Honourable the Prime Minister. Our lady friend Begum Rasul said that the circumstances of the country require a dictator to handle the situation. The Honourable the Prime Minister said that some Minister with a portfolio but without any executive power should be appointed. In between the two I would suggest that the Prime Minister himself may take charge of this portfolio and give up for a year the other portfolios in his charge. My impression is that unless a super-Minister is there with power to drive the other Ministers and the whole Ministry to supply our deficiencies in food and clothing, nothing good will come out. I do not want just one other Minister to stand before the other Ministers with folded hands and ask them for favours as if it is his own business. I know in many departments a Minister had to feel helpless before other Ministers and there is nothing like co-ordination. Before the 15th August, 1947, as soon as the Prime Minister took charge we heard that for a short time in the day the Prime Minister used to call the various Ministers to his office or somewhere in the Secretariat at 4 o'clock, to take note of whatever passed every day, and for some time we heard that all was well. Thereafter this kind of co-ordination seems to have got more and more lax. I do not wish to enter into details, but the test of the pudding is in the eating and we find that there is no co-ordination. Is it for the first time that the Prime Minister has come to realise that a Ministry for Economic Affairs is necessary? He himself has presided over the National Planning Committee. Now in human affairs the first thing to be done is that even if a building has to be constructed it is the original mason who has to think out what kind of building he has to construct before he puts up one brick over another. Planning is essentially necessary and a programme has to be chalked out. Policies have been there. The other day Government through the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply came out with a policy regarding the industrialisation of the country;

they chalked out certain industries as State industries, others as joint industries to be run by both the State and private enterprise and others run exclusively as private industries. May I know what has been done in that direction? I heard the long speech of Dr. Mookerjee today; he dilated more on the ways of distribution than on increased production. Has he opened any new mills in this country for producing greater quantities of cloth? Nothing has been done, even after the last Industries Conference. Either the State itself should have done so or induced other people to do it. The huge delegation that went to England with such a huge paraphernelia should not have come to any financial agreement but to a commercial or trade agreement. They should have arranged to get goods from foreign countries. To make a transfer from one account to another account in the Bank of England is no good, and all our efforts have been wasted. What is it that our delegation that went to England to liquidate the sterling balances has done in terms of goods? Nothing tangible has been done and no effort seems to have been made in that direction. The British Government instead of saying that they would allow 160 million could easily have allowed the whole of the thousand millions in our account, because it is all done on paper and means nothing. Sir Stafford Cripps was there; if they had only given one look at him and drawn inspiration from him that would have been enough. Where is that enthusiasm and that drive?

An Honourable Member: Exporting moral credit also.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, without any imports. What I say is this. Where is the Minister here in charge of any portfolio who says at the week-end on the radio or in the press or on the platform that he congratulates people on their efforts in the way of increased production? That has got to be done if we want to live a decent life in the world. I am not at all over-ambitious and do not want to capture other markets as Sir Stafford Cripps wants to do. He wants to retain the old external trade; our own markets are enough for us. Are we satisfying our own needs? I must appeal to every Minister; whoever takes a responsible position must feel his position. I will refer to the question of food; I am not making any personal aspersion against any Minister but surely it is a matter for consideration. The one country which started the war and had to defend itself has set its house in order in a very short time. It is just like a ball; the harder you hit it the higher it goes. Likewise England has come to its feet. We have not suffered much by the war but we are in the same old abyss; it is like the dog that bites some other man and then itself dies. We were not heart and soul in the war but we have been hit much more than the others. In the matter of food its production has gone down in every province and in every item. There were some questions to be answered today by the Food Minister and the Minister for Industry and Supply; we did not reach them and the answers were laid on the table. In regard to Madras, for instance, there is a statement showing the production of the principal food grains and the increase during 1945 to 1948, the basic period being 1939. The normal average in Madras in 1936-39 is 78 lakh tons; then it came down in 1945-46 to 59 lakh tons, then increased to 70 lakh tons and again came down to 58 lakh tons. Today we are deficient by 20 per cent. Likewise the original all-India total was 48 million tons, then it came down to 41, then to 40 and 35 and now we are deficient by 8 million tons. Therefore so far as food is concerned, what steps have been taken? The Grow More Food campaign is more a window-dressing than anything else. Where are we growing? In the Governor General's bungalow or in the house-tops? It is a matter for explanation from any Minister. The other day I moved a Resolution for the appointment of a Famine Commission to take charge of the less developed areas to which money should be given by the Centre as well as the provinces, so that they may watch constantly what

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar].

progress has been made. What has been done about that? There are other figures here which show that we are importing all sorts of grains at a cost of 108 crores of rupees per year. What grain used to be thrown into the sea by other countries as useless is now being eaten in this country; only next to death by starvation we will eat anything that is called a cereal. We are importing to the tune of 108 crores; but what has been done—may I know—in the way of subsidising agriculture in order to produce more food in this country? My honourable friend Prof. Ranga always says we must give more to the Kisan; we always give little and we are always too late. We never appease. We never satisfy those persons who are in want. Let us give something more. That is what I would ask the Minister to address himself to.

As regards implements, there are iron and steel. Until agriculture improves, they should be made available only for agricultural purpose. Let all the other activities be suspended, except defence industries, where iron and steel might be necessary.

How is it that people were able to produce cereals and other things in 1939? How is that the production of cereals has gone down? Because they were not fetching the same price as sugar cane. In my own district, a number of paddy fields were converted into sugar cane. They produced so much that when jaggery prices fell down they also collapsed. A kind of crop planning is necessary. For the tea and coffee that is exported to foreign countries, we are anxious to have a plan. It is because the foreigners give us a drive. Have we not a drive for ourselves? Why should we not insist that we should stand on our own feet, having now come to our own? A man having land should be permitted to cultivate it according to a plan. Those are the ways in which we could address ourselves with respect to food.

With regard to cloth, some more mills must be brought into existence.

Then I come to the Honourable the Finance Minister. He has not been able to sponge off the profits which have gone into the pockets of so many persons and we have given him sufficient time to endear himself to the industrialists of this country. It is nearly a year. He kissed them. He gave them various other things. But all these embraces have been one-sided. He has not been able to induce them to produce more. We ignored our convictions and still we supported him. But we have so much of inflation that the common man is going to the wall. I read the speech of the Governor of the Reserve Bank. He says banks are advancing on non-industrial purposes and not producing consumers' goods. Then why are you merely looking on? Rs. 500 odd crores have been thrown into the market. That is his confession. Here is a cutting from the press. This is clear that the Reserve Bank has not taken steps to reduce inflation.' On the other hand, it is printing as of old more and more notes and sending them into the banks. Even these savings certificates have not proved effective.

What is the next step? Why not try in the other direction? Let a number of people come and subscribe to these loans. Let us give more interest. But objections may be raised by the industries thus. If Government is paying so much interest to subscribers and draws off money, what are we industrialists to do? The answer is that the Government tried to help the industrialists by starting a cheap money policy, so that not all money may be drawn by Government but that the money may be available for industrialists. They assembled some motor parts from England and called it "The Hindustan Times".

Oh! I am sorry. I mean "The Hindustan Ten". I know of ancient times that when an Indian will purchase a company, for the goodwill of an English name he will forego all his property. So the same game is being continued in "The Hindustan Ten".

The industrialists have failed. Let us not look to them. The time has come when the State must come forward and say that this is the industry that I will take and pursue. If the choice is between the welfare of the industrialist and the community, I will choose the community. All of us, 300 millions and more, are not here to be merely satisfied by a handful of these people? They are definitely dictating policy. All right, let them support us and then try to take a large percentage for its management.

I was surprised—possibly I did not hear my honourable friend the mover, properly,—but if I heard him correctly, I am exceedingly sorry for the suggestion that he gave. Do you know what it is? He says place your industries in charge of the industrialists. Bring all the industries together appoint all industrialists into a council and place all the industries in their charge. I am glad he has not advised us to give away the management of the Government so that once and for all we shall be ruled by them lock, stock and barrel.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: As an alternative to the Government not taking up the whole thing in its own hands.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is an alternative of dropping ourselves into the sea. What is this alternative? To place the entire industry into the hands of a few?.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Without either of the two, we will be as vague and lost as we are at this moment.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If it is for such a solution I would not have subscribed to the resolution. Under those circumstances, I am sorry that none of these gentlemen have taken their work seriously except for one or two. I do not want to be invidious. It requires a super-Minister to be in charge of this.

What is the need of my quarrelling with Mr. Lari. Very often persons who oppose us speak the truth. We have to recognise it much sooner than we do. We cannot merely play to emotions and then say we are doing this. We cannot warm ourselves on paper fire. Likewise, if we go on with these speeches, can we fill our stomachs? Therefore I appeal with all earnestness that they should put more energy into themselves and see to it that such a debate need not come up here again and our country will be overflowing with milk and honey: otherwise I would request them to get out.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I would like to speak on it at a later occasion.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Mysore State): I would make a similar request as my friend Pandit Kunzru.

Mr. Chairman: If the Honourable Member declines he loses his opportunity.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: The consideration shown to Pandit Kunzru should be shown to me also. If the Chair declines, however, I do not worry!

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid you will have to lose it.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: I am afraid I do not regret it!

श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट: सभापति जी, में दिन के आखिरी भाग में इस विषय पर बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। में अभी न तो सरमायेदारों के विषय में बात करना चाहता हूं और न दूसरी जनता के विषय में बात करना चाहता हूं। अभी यह कहा गया है कि सरकार बहुत कोशिश कर रही है पर परिणाम जैसा होना चाहिए वैसा नहीं हो रहा है। और हम लोग

(श्री गोकुल भाई दोलत राम भट्ट)

तो अनासक्ति योग वाले हैं हमने इसकी चिन्ता नहीं की कि कैसा हो रहा है और कैसा नहीं हो रहा है । लेकिन अब हमें मालूम होने लगा है कि हमने जो नीति अख्तियार की वह ऐसी रही है कि करना या नहीं करना, थोड़ा सा करना या बहुत करना, इसके बीच में हम यहां वहां भटकते रहे और उस नीति के परिणाम स्वरूप आज यह हालत हो गयी है । अब हमें चिल्लाना पड़ता हैं । अफसोस जाहिर करना पड़ता है और हमारी हुकूमत के मिनिस्टरों को भी कुछ सोचना पड़ता है और वह भी कुछ ज्यादा दिमाग लगाकर सोचने लगे हैं और हमें कुछ आश्वासन दे रहे हैं कि हम यह करेंगे, वह करेंगे । एक तरफ हम यह कहते हैं कि जिनके ऊपर हमने आधार रखा था उन सरमायेदारों ने जैसा हमने चाहा था वैसा हमारा साथ नहीं दिया है । कुछ अंशों में वह बात ठीक है । इसमें दो रायें नहीं हो सकतीं कि जैसी हम अपेक्षा करते थे वैसी हमारी उम्मीद पूरी नहीं हुई । इसमें तो कोई शक नहीं है । लेकिन इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जो लोग जनता में काम करने वाले हैं और जो यहां बैठे हुए हैं उन्होंने अपने जीवन को कितना ऊंचा उठाया है और जनता के और दूसरों के सामने क्या आदर्श रखा है । मैं मामूली सी मिसाल दूं तो ठीक होगा क्योंकि मैं आपके सामने लम्बी लम्बी बातें करने में और तरह तरह के आंकडे आपके सामने रखने में ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता यद्यपि मैं ऐसे आंकडे दे सकता हूं कि उत्पत्ति बढ़ी है या घटी है । उत्पत्ति कुछ बढी है मगर हमारे मिल वालों ने कपड़े की उत्पत्ति छिपा रखी है । कम से कम दस परसेंट उत्पत्ति तो ऐसी है जो कि हमें मालूम नहीं कि हुई या नहीं और जो कि उन्होंने छिपा रखी है । कहने वाले कहते हैं कि ज्यादा लूम (Looms) चलते रहे मगर उन्होंने उनको बिगड़ा हुआ दिखाया और इस तरह उत्पत्ति कम दिखलायी । लेकिन सचमुच उत्पत्ति बढ़ने में कोई शंका नहीं है ।

अनाज की उत्पत्ति बढ़ी या नहीं यह कहना मुश्किल हो जाता है । कहीं-कहीं अनाज कम हुआ है इसमें कोई शंका नहीं लेकिन पता लगा है कि कल तार आया है कि बीकानेर में हजारों मन गेहूं, हजारों मन जौ और लाखों मन चना सड़ रहा है, बारिश में भीग रहा है और बदबू मार रहा है । इस तरह की स्थिति है । वहां के व्यापारी और वहां के किसान चाहते हैं कि उसे कोई ले परन्तु कोई लेने वाला नहीं । या तो कोई लेने वाला नहीं निकलता है या हमारी रेलवे की सामर्थ्य नहीं है कि वह उस माल को ला सके । हमारे किसान चिल्लाते हैं कि हम माल देने को तैयार हैं हमको कीमत दीजिये । अगर वह ब्लैक मारकेट करने लगें तो उनको बहुत

ज्यादा कीमत मिल जाय । लेकिन जब वह सही तरीके से माल देना चाहते हैं तो आप नहीं लेते और जब वह चोरी करके बेचते हैं तो उनको ज्यादा कीमत मिल जाती है । तो इस चीज़ का भी हमें विचार करना चाहिए । जो किसान चीज़ उत्पन्न करता है अगर उसके पास कुछ ज्यादा पैसे भी चले जायं तो कोई हर्ज नहीं । हम ब्लैक मारकेटियर को बीच में रखकर उसे ज्यादा पैसा दें यह ठीक है या यह ठीक है कि हम किसान से कहें हम तुमको १५ रुपया या १८ रुपया देंगे । पर उस समय तो हम उसे ५ या ६ या ७ रुपया देकर उस चीज़ का दाम २० रुपया लेना चाहते हैं । तो हमारी नीति इस प्रकार की होनी चाहिए कि जहां जो चीज़ है उसे हम अपने हाथ में लेलें और उसका वितरण इस प्रकार से करें कि वह जनता में सही तौर से पहुंच सके ।

जब कंट्रोल था उस समय भी और जब उसके निकालने की बात हुई उस समय भी मैंने कहा था कि कंट्रोल के रखने से हमारा जीवन नीचे गिर गया है । आज मैं फिर कहता हूं कि हमने कोई तरक्की नहीं की है । हम अपने प्रयत्नों की तरफ नहीं देखते, हम अपने रीति रिवाज की तरफ़ नहीं देखते कि हमने अपने जीवन को कितना नीचा गिरा दिया है । हम कहते हैं कि हम ब्लैक मारकेट नहीं करते लेकिन ब्लैक मारकेट करने वाले की मोटर में बैठने में हमें कोई हिचकिचाहट नहीं होती यद्यपि वह दस दस रुपया गैलन का दाम देकर पेट्रोल खरीदता है । यह छोटी सी बात नहीं है । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आज हिन्दुस्तान में हमारा नैतिक जीवन बहुत गिर गया है और हमारा बहुत नैतिक अध:पतन हो गया है । उसकी तरफ़ हम देखते नहीं । हम बड़े बड़े अर्थशास्त्रियों की तरह विचार करते हैं कि कौनसी तरकीब लगावें जिससे सरमायेदारों को अपने नियंत्रण में रखें । हम अपने ऊपर नियंत्रण नहीं करते हैं । हम यह नहीं सोचते कि जो जनता एक बार भोजन कर रही है उसके मुकाबले में हम कितना उपभोग करते हैं, हम कितना अनाज खराब कर रहे हैं । जिन लोगों के पास पैसे हैं उनके लिए मैं यह सुझांव रखना चाहता हूं कि वह एक मर्तबा अनाज इस्तेमाल करें और दूसरी मर्तबा साग भाजी फलाहार पर ही रहें कि जिससे हमारे अनाज का बचाव हो ।

कपड़े के लिए आप कहते हैं कि १२ गज मिलेगा या २४ गज मिलेगा । अभी बम्बई में सप्लाई मिनस्टर देसाई ने कहा है कि अब २४ गज कपड़ा मिलेगा । हम लोग अधीर तो हैं ही क्योंकि हम समझते हैं कि यह मिलने वाला नहीं है । कल फलां हुक्म निकाल दिया जायगा और परसों तीसरा हुक्म निकाल दिया जायगा । हमें किसी चीज़ पर विश्वास नहीं है । इसलिए अब

[श्री गोकुलभाई दौलतराम भट्ट]

से २४ गज़ का हुक्म हुआ है दस रुपये की धोती १५ और १७ रुपये में बिकने लगी और इस तरह काला बाजार ज्यादा होने लगा । तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि अगर हम समझते हैं कि २४ गज़ कपड़े में काम चल सकता है तो हम लोगों को भी जो कि नेता कहलाने वाले हैं २४ गज़ में काम चलाना चाहिए । मगर उनके घर में जाकर देखये अलमारियां भरी पड़ी हैं । अपने रिश्तेदारों के लिए वह क्या क्या कर रहे हैं । अगर इन चीजों का हम ख्याल करें तो हमें मालूम हो जायगा कि जब हम इतने गिरे हैं तो हमारी जनता क्यों न गिरे । हम अपने को और अपने रिश्तेदारों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए किसी न किसी तरह से बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं । हम समझते हैं कि हमारे भाई ही देशद्रोही हैं । हम जानते हैं कि अगर रुपया मिलने की बात हो तो हमारे भाई पाकिस्तान तो क्या हमारे किसी भी दुश्मन को चीज़ देने के लिए तैयार हैं । उनको तो रुपया चाहिये ।

इस प्रकार हमारा यह नैतिक जीवन गिरा हुआ है । इसको उठाने के लिये हमें सोचना होगा । हम में जो लोग बोलने वाले हैं जो लोग काम करने वाले हैं उन लोगों को अपने जीवन को उठाना है और उन्हें अपने जीवन को उठाने के लिये कोई न कोई तरकीब सोचनी होगी और उसके बाद हमें आशा करनी चाहिये कि सरकार भी उस पर सोचे ।

यह बात ठीक है कि सरकार के पास काम बहुत हैं और सरकार से आशा भी हम बहुत करते हैं कि मजदूरों के लिये यह करो, फ़लां के लिये यह करो, यह योजना बनावो वह योजना बनाओ, रियासत के मामले को बढ़ाना है, हैदराबाद के लिये भी इन्तजाम करना है । उनके सामने एक चीज़ तो नहीं है । लेकिन फिर भी मैं यह मानता हूं कि यह बहुत ही बड़ा और ज़रुरी सवाल है । कपड़े का और खुराक का जो सवाल है वह इतना बड़ा सवाल है कि उस पर दो दिन बहस करें तो भी क्या होने वाला है । आखिर हम बहस करके चले जावेंगे और काम उन्हीं पर छोड़ जावेंगे जो कि काम करने वाले हैं । उन्हीं मंत्रियों के ऊपर छोड़ जावेंगे जो कि काम करने वाले हैं । लेकिन हम बहस करके छोड़ जांय इतना ही नहीं करना चाहिये । मैं जो बहस में हिस्सा ले रहा हूं उसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि हम लोग कमेटी में आ जांय, या कोई इकानामी कमीशन (Economy Commission) बने उसमें आ जांय । मैं तो कहता हूं कि हमें जनता के जीवन को उठाना है, हमें नैतिकता के जीवन को उठाना है । और इस लिये ज़रूरी है कि हम जो कपड़े वगैरह का इस्तेमाल करें वह सही करें । इस तरह जनता समझ सकती है कि यह लोग जिस रीति से चल रहे हैं उसी रीति से हमको भी चलना चाहिये । इस प्रकार हमें चलना है जिससे यह जो ब्लैक मारकेटिंग और हो रहा है वह कम हो जाय ।

इतना कह कर मैं समाप्त करता हूं क्योंकि अब समय भी हो गया है। मेरे जो विचार थे वह मैंने आपके सामने रख दिये हैं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt (Eastern Rajputana States Group): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this subject this evening. At the moment I do not either want to take up the cause of capitalists or the others. It has just now been stated that Government is doing its utmost but the results are not quite upto the expectations. We have been taking quite a detached view and did not show any anxiety over the trend of events. But now we have come to realise that the policy which we had adopted was that of indecision, and as a result of which such a state of affairs exists today. Now we have to shout and regret and our Ministers have also got to think over this. They have also begun to exert their brains and are giving us some sort of assurance that they would do this or that. On the one hand we say that the capitalists on whom we depended had not co-operated with us to the extent we had anticipated. This is true in many respects. There cannot be two opinions on this that our hopes have not been fulfilled. There is no doubt about it. But along with this, I would like to know how far those of us who are public workers and sitting here have elevated their lives in the estimation of the public and what are the ideals placed by them before others? It would be quite in order if I quote a small example, because I do not want to take more time by giving lengthy discourses or placing various kinds of statistics before you, although I can furnish such statistics which would tend to show the increase or decrease in production. The production has been increased a bit, but our mill-owners have concealed this increased cloth production. At least we are not aware of 10 per cent. of such production if it did actually exist or not and which they have hidden. It has generally been said that more looms are working, but they have shown these as out of order and in this manner they have manipulated to show less production. But infact there is no doubt in the increase in production.

It becomes somewhat difficult to say whether there was actually an increase in the production of foodgrains or not. There is no doubt that at certain places the production of foodgrains had been small, but I am told that a telegram was received yesterday that thousands of maunds of wheat, barley and grams are rotting, putrefying and soaking in rain in Bikaner. Such is the state of affairs. The traders and peasants of that place want that somebody should purchase it, but there is none to buy. Either there is no buyer or our Railway has no capacity to transport it. Our agriculturists are clamouring that they are prepared to sell their goods provided they are paid a fair price. If they resort to black-market, then they are able to secure very high prices. But if they want to sell these in a proper way, then you do not buy, and when they sell in black-market, they manage to get more value. We should also, therefore, look to this aspect. There is no harm if a little more money goes into the hands of an agriculturist who is after all the producer. Which of the two courses is right? Should we pay more money through the agency of a black-marketeer or tell him directly that we would pay him at Rs. 15 or Rs. 18. But at that time we want to procure these goods by paying him at Rs. 5, Rs. 6, or Rs. 7 and on our part sell at the rate of Rs. 20. Our policy should, therefore, be to procure from each and every place whatever is available and distribute it in such a manner that it reaches the masses equitably.

During the time when control was in force and later as well when the policy of de-control was under consideration, I had pointed out that the existence of control had demoralized us. Today I again say that we have not made any progress. We do not look to our ideals, customs and traditions that now

[Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt]

far we have been morally depraved. We assert that we do not indulge in black-market, but we hardly feel any hesitation in sitting in the motor-car of a black-marketer although he purchases petrol at Rs. 10 per gallon. This is not a petty thing. I would like to say that our moral life in India has considerably degenerated and we have succumbed to moral bankruptcy. We do not look to this aspect. Like great economists we think over the ways and means to bring capitalists under our control. We do not exercise any self-control. We do not look to those people who get food only once a day and make a comparison between them and the quantity of food we consume and waste. I would like to put this suggestion for being acted upon by those who are rich and exhort them to take cereals only once in a day and use vegetables and fruits subsequently, and thus economise in cereals.

In regard to cloth you say that either 12 or 24 yards will be given. Only recently, Mr. Desai, Minister for Civil Supplies, Bombay Government, stated that 24 yards of cloth would now be issued. We people are quite impatient, because we apprehend that this would not be available as revised orders would be issued tomorrow and again the day after. We have got no faith in anything. Since the orders for the sale of 24 yards of cloth were issued, a dhoti costing Rs. 10 is being sold at a price of Rs. 15 and Rs. 17, and this gave a fillip to black-marketing. What I meant to say was that in case we think that 24 yards cloth can serve the purpose, then we people—the so-called leaders—should also confine our requirements within this limit. But if you go to their houses, you will undoubtedly find that their almirahs are full. How are they helping their relations? If we take a stock of all these things, then only we can visualize the extent to which we have been degraded and as a sequence to this why should not our masses also be demoralized? In some way or the other we are aggrandizing our own interests and encouraging those of our relations. We know fully well that our brethren are traitors, and they are preparing to sell goods to any of our enemies—what to say of Pakistan—when the question of making money is involved. In this way our moral life has degenerated. We shall have to think over how to raise it. Many of us who are workers shall have to devise some measure to raise the moral calibre of our lives, and after this we should expect the Government also to consider this. This is true that the Government is busy with too many problems, but we expect it to do many a things, *viz.*, to do this for the labourers or that for others, to formulate this or that plan, to look after the affairs of the states and tackle the Hyderabad situation. They have not one thing before them. But even then I feel that it is a colossal and vital issue. The problem of food and cloth is so vast that even if we discuss it for two days, we cannot solve this. After discussion we will go and leave the things to be done by the Ministers who are responsible for the matter. But we should not confine our role to mere discussion. I do not mean that our names should be included in the Committee or be appointed to any Economy Committee which may be set up. I would emphasize that we have got to ameliorate the standard of living of our masses and raise their moral. To achieve this, it is very essential that we should make the right use of cloth etc. In this way the masses can very well realize the course of action and follow in our footsteps. We have to explore avenues to root out the evil of black-market that is prevalent at present.

With these words, I would close, as my time is over here and I have placed my views before you.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 12th August, 1948.

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